FBIS DAILY REPORT

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REPORTAGE ON REACTION TO ALFONSIN SPEECH

PY150139 [Editorial Report] Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 1447 GMT on 14 December carries a report covering the reaction of some Argentine personalities to the government's decision to bring former government junta members to trial and to punish excesses committed during the antisubversive war.

The report quotes Rear Admiral Horacio Zaratiegui, retired, as saying that "most of the responsibility for the excesses committed during the antisubversive war must be born by those who gave the orders." According to the report, Zaratiegui noted that the president "is doing his duty, and no objections can be raised from this standpoint. The courts will be in charge of judging the circumstances in which the crimes may have been committed, and it will be the courts' responsibility to make the best decision for our country, for our institutions, and for the current process of restoration of the state of law. This is a very delicate task, because it is essentially a moral problem that must be solved, considering that the struggle against subversion was not at all easy. There were situations that could have been regarded as emergencies, and they may have been dealt with through wrong procedures. The courts will indict those who are responsible." The report says that Zaratiegui explained that "many of the excesses that some Armed Forces members may have committed were reported through charges that must be proven."

The report also quotes retired Colonel Juan Cesio, an Intransigent Party leader, as saying that "last night I experienced one of the greatest satisfactions of the past 8 years, becase I was able to see that our president has firm character and great civic courage, and that he has correctly given priority attention to some issues. In effect, he took action aimed at alleviating that tremendous wound in Argentine society, namely, the 30,000 missing people and the effects of all sorts of violence."

Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 1235 GMT on 14 December also quotes Colonel Cesio as referring to the decision to bring former junta members to trial. The DYN report quotes Cesio as saying that "one must be fully well aware that there can be no confusion regarding the concepts of authority and jurisdiction, because what happens here is that there are some crimes that can be committed only by militarymen." The report goes on to say that Cesio remarked that "the Supreme Court, which is the highest court, is always above all other courts, either of a military or civil nature."

The report quotes Cesio as saying that the decision to take legal action against terrorist leaders was "perfect." According to the report, Cesio said that "those who are responsible for murder must be brought to trial and punished if found guilty, no matter who they sided with."

Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 1447 GMT on 14 December carries a report noting that Francisco Manrique, former Federal Alliance presidential candidate, voiced his "support" for the measures announced by Alfonsin, adding that "prudence" must prevail "in order to prevent further evils." The report quotes Manrique as saying that "Alfonsin has taken a step forward that will be beneficial for our country's health. I hope that this step, that was taken on the basis of ethical principles, will strengthen peace in Argentina. The truth is that the problem had to have an in-depth solution, rather than letting time go by as if nothing had happened here."

Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 1712 on 14 December carries a report quoting Christian Democratic Party leader Carlos Auyero as saying that the Alfonsin speech reflects a strong determination to achieve justice without revenge, and that the executive branch has thus taken action not to allow the horrible crimes committed during the military administration to go unpunished.

Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 1755 on 14 December carries a report quoting Justicialist Party Deputy Miguel Angel Serralta as saying that "the Justicialist bloc of the lower house is in total agreement with the decisions announced by Alfonsin." The same report also quotes Justicialist Party Deputy Antonio Paliari as saying that he "agreed with the decisions made by the President." The report quotes Paliari as referring to the prosecution of terrorists and those who were responsible for repression. According to the report, Paliari said that "the entire country agrees that past actions must be judged by an independent judicial branch."

Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 1755 GMT on 14 December carries a report quoting Adam Pedrini, a Justicialist leader of the Chamber of Deputies, as praising the announcements made by Alfonsin and saying that he hopes similar measures will be adopted for prosecuting "those who made speculation flourish in our country and those who turned it into an easy money land," like Jose Martinez be Hoz and others.

Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 2345 GMT on 14 December carries a report in which Cardinal Juan Carlos Aramburu, the president of the Argentine Episcopal Conference, is quoted as saying that the speech by Alfonsin "follows the line" that the Church has recently sponsored. The report also quotes Cardinal Raul Primatesta, an Episcopal Conference official, as saying that "if crimes are committed, they must be punished."

Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 1447 GMT on 14 December carries a report quoting writer Ernesto Sabato as saying that the speech by Alfonsin reveals "that he will fulfill his promises." Sabato also says that "this is a very good beginning, because it is aimed at preserving the dignity of our nation in the face of the scourges of terrorism, coups, and repression.

Lanusse, Rey Comment

PY142150 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1530 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (DYN) -- General Alejandro Lanusse, retired, former president and former commander in chief of the Navy, has said that the measures that President Raul Alfonsin announced last night on bringing to court the former members of the military junta along with subversive leaders "fill me with hope and I truly wish they will be carried out." Lanusse pointed out that the measures announced last night "had already been announced, and now they were simply spelled out."

Lieutenant General [Air Force] Carlos Alberto Rey, retired, said that "Alfonsin made a very significant speech," adding that "we will have to wait and see the results of this process." He indicated that "the principles outlined in the speech are very general, and no one can be against them since the civilized lifestyle of any country where the state of law prevails is based on these principles."

Junta Prosecution Decrees

PY141210 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0238 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (DYN) -- Today the national executive branch ordered the summary trial before the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces of the members of the Military Junta "which usurped the national government on 24 March 1976, and the members of the two subsequent military juntas," a trial which will cover "crimes of homicide, illegal imprisonment, and use of torture on those arrested."

The disposition contained in Decree 158 released tonight involves Lieutenant Generals Jorge Videla, Roberto Viola, and Leopoldo Galtieri; Admirals Emilio Massera, Armando Lambruschini, and Jorge Anaya; and Brigadier Generals Orlando Agosti, Omar Graffigna, and Basilio Lami Dozo.

In Decree 157, the executive branch established "the need to prosecute, in relation to the events perpetrated after 25 May 1973," terrorist leaders Mario Firmenich, Fernando Vaca Narvaja, Ricardo Obregon Cano, Rodolfo Galimberti, and Roberto Perdia of the "Montoneros Group," and Enrique Gorriaran Merlo of the so-called People's Revolutionary Army (ERP). The two decrees were officially released at Government House tonight after the first cabinet meeting presided over by constitutional President Raul Alfonsin, and after his speech to the nation.

Decree 153 points out that "the Military Junta which usurped the national government on 24 March 1973 and the commanders of the Armed Forces who were holding that position on that date conceived and implemented a plan of operations against subversive and terrorist activity based on clearly illegal methods and procedures." The decree adds that from "approximately 1976 to 1979, thousands of people were illegally imprisoned, tortured, and killed as a result of the application of those procedures inspired in the totalitarian doctrine of national security."

The decree also says that "all the inhabitants of the country, and particularly the lower rank members of the Armed Forces, were exposed to an intense and prolonged psychological campaign aimed at establishing the conviction that subversive divisive agents -- a vague method to describe the real terrorists or the simple dissidents, and even those who only criticized the methods used -- deserved to be placed out of society, even deprived of their conditions as human beings, and reduced to objects lacking any protection from the law."

The whereas clauses of the decree also note that "within the framework of this psychological action, a repressive campaign was organized. As a result of this repressive campaign, which adopted completely illegal procedures, persons were deprived of their freedom on the mere suspicion of unidentified officials. Moreover, despite the fact that they had adopted a nonviolent attitude, these persons were taken to secret detention centers. Although their exact whereabouts are not known, public opinion seriously believes that many of them were deprived of the right to life without any trial, and it is believed that during the period of their detention, many of them or almost all of them were subjected to savage torture."

It adds that "on several occasions, the members of the Armed Forces Command and the members of the Military Junta that usurped the government on the aforementioned date publicly admitted their responsibility in the procedures described; these statements have been corroborated in the explicit statement included in the act that the Military Junta issued on (?28) April 1983. This act states that all operations were executed in keeping with plans approved and supervised by the Armed Forces superior commands and by the Military Junta."

It adds that "the existence of plans and orders makes the members of the Military Junta on active duty during the aforementioned period and the Armed Forces Command superior officers with decision-making powers directly responsible for the crimes that were perpetrated within the framework of the plans that were drafted and supervised by superior officers (Article No 514 of the Military Justice Court); the responsibility of subordinates, which is eliminated by the Military Junta Act, is particularly restricted to the incidents derived from the aforementioned psychological action, which in many cases may have led them to errors regarding the moral and legal meaning of their actions within the coercive framework to which they were subjected."

Moreover, "it is public knowledge that during the operations that were carried out by military personnel and security forces, abuses were perpetrated against the property of the victims, against their dignity, against their sexual freedom, and against the right of parents to keep their children with them."

It adds that the authors of these actions are as "responsible as the individuals who planned the operations," since "they were aware of the serious possibility of abuses being committed, which in fact occurred."

In the whereas clause, it is stated that "the democratic government that has been restored should seek, among its priority measures, to reassert an essential ethical value, which is the strengthening of justice." "To this end, it is necessary to seek the promotion of legal actions against the individuals who were responsible for the approval and supervision of operations which inevitably prompted violations of the essential rights of man, which are protected by the criminal code."

"The measures proposed herein," it adds, "are also aimed at consolidating the domestic peace." For this reason, "charges should be filed at least for the crimes of homicide, illegal deprivation of freedom, and torturing detainees." These actions will be carried out "regardless of any other crimes that are discovered during the investigation in which the people referred to herein participated as direct authors or instigators."

It adds that "for the prosecution of these crimes, it is advisable to conduct a summary trial in times of peace. This type of trial is conducted when it is necessary to immediately punish a crime in order to maintain the morale, discipline, and military spirit of the Armed Forces (Article 502 of the Military Justice Code)."

It is also maintained that "Article 122, paragraph one of the Military Justice Code states that the prosecutions must be conducted by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces" and that "the jurisdiction of this military court must be respected because Article 18 of the national Constitution does not allow the defendant to be removed from the judge that was appointed by law before the beginning of the prosecution."

"However," it says, "since being criminally tried by a military court whose decision may not be appealed could be a privilege as well as a disadvantage for the defendant, neither of which are permissible under the Constitution, the executive branch plans to immediately submit to the Congress a bill including the full right to appeal the decision made by the military court to the civil courts."

The executive branch points out that the prosecution of the matters referred to in this decree concerns all citizens, particularly the victims who will be able, in the exercising of their rights, to provide information on clarifying these crimes and gathering evidence against the perpetrators.

It also says that "in order to satisfy these requirements, it is necessary to allocate a budget to allow the president of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to have the required personnel and equipment."

Article 1 of Decree 158, based on Clauses 1 and 15, Article 86 of the national Constitution, which grants the president the title of commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and upon Article 179 of the Military Code of Justice, says: "The members of the Military Junta which usurped the national government on 24 March 1976, and the members of the subsequent Military Juntas: Lieutenant Generals Jorge R. Videla and Roberto E. Viola; Brigadier General Omar D. Graffigna; Admiral Armando Lambruschini; Lieutenant General Leopoldo F. Galtieri; Brigadier General Basilio Lami Dozo; and Admiral Jorge I. Anaya, are hereby submitted to a summary trial before the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces."

Article 2 establishes that "the trial will cover crimes of homicide, illegal imprisonment, and use of torture on the detainees in addition to crimes in which the high-ranking officers mentioned in Article 1 may be involved, directly or indirectly, as instigators or accomplices."

Article 3 establishes that "the sentence of the military court may be appealed to the Federal Appellate Court under the terms of the amendments to the Military Code of Justice, submitted as a bill today, for approval by the honorable national Congress."

Article 4 establishes "the necessary budget allocation for the fulfillment of this decree, and the provision of the temporary equipment and personnel required by the president of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces."

As for Article No 157 regarding subversive leaders, it notes in its whereas clauses that the "ample and generous amnesty" issued in May 1973 was "an act of peace aspired by the nation." However, it notes that this objective "was frustrated by the appearance of groups that disobeyed the appeal to jointly undertake the building of a republican democracy, and which resorted to violent political actions to achieve power through the use of force."

It adds that "the actions carried out by these persons and their followers, many of whom were recruited from the young who were avid for justice and who lacked the means that the democratic system offers to achieve it, submerged the country and its inhabitants in violence and insecurity, thus seriously affecting the normal coexistence of the people, as since this is impossible when treacherous crimes, kidnappings, attacks against the people, attacks on military units, on security forces, and on civilian establishments are perpetrated.

All these crimes culminated with a plan to militarily occupy a region of the national territory. This is an obvious reference to Tucuman. [closing quote marks not provided by source]

I. adds that "in turn such a situation did not allow the democratically elected authorities to carry out their government actions, and it served as a pretext for a sector of the Armed Forces, which allied themselves with economic and financial power groups, to alter the constitutional order and usurp the government through the establishment of an illegal repressive system which damaged the living conditions of the people, and which moreover, led the nation to the verge of war and to one defeat after another, and an unprecedented economic and financial crisis." Although this repression, which extended to some sectors of the population that did not participate in this activity, helped to visibly suppress violence and lead to the physical elimination of a large part of the followers of the terrorist hierarchy, and even to some members of that hierarchy, it posed an obstacle in prosecuting, within the law, the top leaders responsible for the aforementioned violence."

The preamble to Article 157 states that the democratic government that has been restored must give precedence to the strengthening of justice. To achieve this, "it is necessary to promote the corresponding penal prosecution against the primary individuals responsible for the institution of violent forms of political action, which affected the Argentine life."

It adds that "since the measure proposed herein also seeks to consolidate the domestic peace, charges should be filed at least for the crimes of illegal association, rebellion, instigating the public to criminal activity, ratification of criminal activity, and other attacks against the public order, regardless of any other crimes that may be discovered during the investigation."

The preamble continues to say that "for the conduction of an investigation of the crimes, it is advisable to request the intervention of the attorney general of the nation," who represents the people and the state in cases in which national interests are involved, and "who has the necessary power to implement, through the public prosecutors for lower and higher courts, the various aspects of the inquest to be conducted and to represent the people."

As in the clauses concerning the Military Junta members, the clause referring to the subversive leaders states that since the prosecution that has been ordered "concerns all and each one of the citizens, particularly the victims, the latter are entitled to give any information that could help to clarify the crimes and serve as evidence against the culprits."

To this effect, in Article 1, the president "declares the need to promote criminal prosecution against Mario Eduardo Firmenich (Armed Forces serial no 7,794,388), Fernando Vaca Narvaja (Armed Forces serial no 7,997,198), Ricardo Armando Obregon Cano (Armed Forces serial no 2,954,758), Rodolfo Gabriel Galimberti (identity card no 5,942,050), Roberto Cirilo Perdia (Armed Forces serial no 4,399,488), Hector Pedro Pardo (Armed Forces serial no 7,797,669), and Enrique Heraldo Gorriaran Merlo (Armed Forces serial no 4,865,510) for the crimes, committed after 25 May 1973, of homicide, illegal association, instigating the public to criminal activity, ratification of criminal activity, and other attacks against the public order, regardless of any other crimes of which they are found to be perpetrators, instigators, or accomplices."

Article 2 conveys the decision to the attorney general "who will be asked to give the required directives to organize the appropriate investigations and to take actions in the name of the people."

Article 3 establishes that "all the branches of the national public administration will submit to the office indicated by the attorney general, within 15 working days from this date, all the information available regarding the illegal activities of people referred to in Article 1."

Article 4 says that "provincial governors are invited to submit information referred to in the prior article," and Article 6 says: "The necessary budget allocation for the fulfillment of this decree, and the supply of temporary equipment and personnel required by the attorney general are hereby ordered."

Judge Orders Prosecutions

PY141434 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1350 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (TELAM) -- It has been learned from sources at the courts that trial Judge Emilio Jorge Garcia Mendez, who is temporarily in charge of the court headed by Dr Luis Jose Marino, has issued, at the request of Prosecutor Enrique Mario Pose, a ruling ordering the prosecution of Lieutenant General Cristino Nicolaides, retired, and Admiral Ruben Oscar Franco, retired, former commanders in chief of the Army and the Navy, respectively.

The decision is based on the case of illegal imprisonment of Ines Ollero, who disappeared a few years ago. The two ex-commanders in chief will be prosecuted and summoned for questioning, because in their reports to the courts they reportedly hindered the inquest and the judge's activity by denying evidence and covering up the perpetrator's guilt. It is not known when the judge will summon the two ex-commanders in chief for questioning.

No Reaction From Defendants

PY142215 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2130 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (DYN) -- Five of the nine military chiefs who will be brought to summary trial by the new democratic government declined to make any comments to the press. Three of them could not be located and another is in prison.

Keeping his mouth shut as he has done since he stepped down from the presidency in 1981, Lieutenant General Jorge Rafael Videla, retired, who headed the government during the first 5 years of military rule, refused to answer questions from journalists. The same attitude was adopted by Videla's successor to the presidency, Lieutenant General Roberto Viola, retired, as well as by Admiral Jorge Issac Anaya, who was Navy commander during the Malvinas war.

In Viola's case, a woman who answered the journalists' questions after consulting with Viola, said that the former Army commander could not make any comment on President Raul Alfonsin's message because "he had guests to dinner and had not heard the message."

Likewise, former Air Force Commander Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo, retired, answered through an unidentified person who takes phone calls at his house, that "he appreciated the call, but that he does not make statements for the press."

At the house of former Army commander and former President Lieutenant General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri, retired, the phone was hung up after the press announced that it was the caller.

Former Air Force commanders Brigadiers Orlando Ramon Agosti and Omar Graffigna and former Navy commander Admiral Armando Lambruschini could not be located at their residences because phone calls went unanswered.

Former Navy commander and former member of the first military junta Admiral Emilio Eduardo Massera could not be contacted, since he is under arrest at the Buenos Aires Navy docks for his involvement in the disappearance of businessman Fernando Arturo Branca.

Defense Minister on Indictment

PY142252 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1712 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Cordoba, 14 Dec (TELAM) -- Defense Minister Raul Borras stated here today that members of the three military juntas of the military process will be indicted for being politically responsible for the methods used in the struggle against subversion: the first junta for having adopted that decision, and the following two for not adopting a different method. He also denied that the official decision to indict the military chiefs could delay the designation of the chiefs of the Armed Forces.

Asked about the government decision to bring charges against military officers and subversive leaders, Borras stated that the government basically established its ethical position toward violence. From now on, violence must be weeded out from national life, and democracy is being strengthened in the life of the country, Borras stated.

Regarding the indictment of members of the first three military juntas of the self-styled national reorganization process, he said that the commanders in chief are politically responsible for the decisions they made because, based on these decisions, they not only launched a struggle against subversion, but also established the manner in which it was carried out. The first junta, he concluded, will be indicted for adopting the decision, and the following two for not adopting a different method.

Political, Labor Leaders' Reaction

PY141740 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] This morning, expressions of agreement with the president's message that was broadcast last night, were heard from several political and labor leaders.

Simon Lazara, head of Unified Socialism, said that Alfonsin's announcement on the restoration of a state of law in this country was highly positive.

Peronist leader Raul Matera, said that he agreed that military cases should be tried by military courts and cases of the civilian sector should go to civilian courts.

Labor leader Jorge Triaca said that he believed that the crime of sedition should be fought by means of adequate democratic measures, rather than by applying the punishments established in the Constitution.

PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN LISTS NEW MILITARY CHIEFS

PY150123 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0015 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez has just reported that the executive branch has appointed Brigadier General Julio Fernandez Torres as chief of the Joint Staff. Brigadier General Jorge Arguindeguy was appointed Army chief of staff; Rear Admiral Ramon Antonio Arosa was appointed Navy chief of staff; and Major General Tedoro Guillermo Waldner was appointed Air Force chief of staff.

In this way substantial institutional changes are being made in the so-called three branches of the Armed Forces since the position of commander in chief has been eliminated, as had been anticipated by Alfonsin himself. The commander in chief position was incompatible with that of supreme commander of the Armed Forces, which is being vested in the president, as set forth by the Constitution.

Defense Ministry Communique

PY150246 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0115 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin today appointed Brigadier General Julio Alfredo Fernandez Torres as chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff, and Brigadier General Jorge Arguindeguy, Rear Admiral Ramon Antonio Arosa, and Major General Teodoro Guillermo Waldner as chiefs of staff of the Army, Navy and Air Force, respectively.

The appointments were officially announced tonight after the president held separate meetings with the above military officers. The meetings were attended by Defense Minister Raul Borras.

The official announcement did not specify when or how the newly appointed officers would take over.

A communique released by the Defense Ministry notes that "the president of the nation has decided to make a series of changes in the Armed Forces structure." "These first changes," the communique remarks, "are the initial steps that will lead to a substantial, profound change that will allow the Armed Forces to develop their daily activities in harmony with the general context of Argentine life."

The document confirms that the so-called "national security doctrine, which has caused so much damage to our internal and external life," will be totally eliminated from the Armed Forces training system and from military life.

The appointments announced tonight confirm the rumors in the cases of the Army and the Navy, but caused some surprise in the case of the Air Force.

Out of a total of 49 generals on active duty, Gen Fernadez Torres ranks 24th in seniority, while Gen Arguindeguy ranks 27th. In the case of Rear Adm Arosa, his appointment will imply the automatic retirement of at least 17 admirals who have more seniority out of a total of 25 admirals on active duty. However, Maj Gen Waldner, currently the commander of air operations, ranks third in seniority in the Air Force. It has been learned that his name was on the list of three officers that former Commander in Chief Augusto Hughes submitted for the election of his successor.

Observers point out that at least 20 brigadier generals retired after the Malvinas war while others died in accidents. Therefore, the retirement of a large number of brigadier generals could pose some kind of technical difficulties for the management of the force.

However, an unusual situation has occurred, namely, that Gen Waldner, the Air Force chief of staff, has more seniority than the cief of the Joint Staff and the other two chiefs of staff.

The communique issued by the Defense Ministry reads:

In keeping with the reorganization taken by the government to adapt the state structure to the new stage the country is in, the appropriate designations of high-ranking officers of our Armed Forces are hereby released today.

Democratic life, whose initial elements are in keeping with the stage that begins now, imposes the fulfillment of the program supported by the citizenry in the general elections held on 30 October 1983.

In his capacity as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and in accordance with the provisions of the National Constitution, the president of the nation has adopted a number of changes in the current structure which are essential for national defense.

Thus, the first steps seek a substantial, profound change which would allow the harmonious development of the daily activity of the Armed Forces within the overall situation of Argentine life.

The Armed Forces, a vital element of the structure of our nation, were created and organized for the defense of the fatherland.

For many years, a mistaken idea has prevented their necessary subordination to the state political power and distorted their role with harmful consequences for society, particularly for the Armed Forces themselves. During that period there have been those within the Armed Forces who had lost sight of the objective of the Armed Forces -- the defense of the fatherland against foreign aggression.

The democratic government has made a firm decision, the fruit of its deepest convictions, to build a nation in which disagreements among its various sectors will be definitely eliminated. Therefore, coups d'etat and the questioning of the constitutional power must be part of a past which will never be repeated in the republic.

We are going to restore democratic coexistence. Within this climate, we will be able to recover the historical prestige of our military institutions, those of the age-old San Martin tradition. The republic no longer belongs nor will it ever again belong to any sector, party, or corporation, but to all Argentines, sons of this noble land and heirs of a fruitful history built day by day for 173 years.

The generals and admirals will be the generals and admirals of the republic, that is, the officers of the Constitution.

We need Armed Forces, which are efficient and modern, detached from any internal commitment making demands on them or preventing them from developing their normal activities in accordance with the Constitution.

Our Armed Forces which exist as an isolated compartment, must be integrated into a harmonic whole so that they may be able to adequately respond to hypothetical conflicts.

Our administration will therefore be directed at the best integration of all their appropriate activities and to their increased efficiency through budgetary apportionments in tune with the special period the country is going through.

We want the Armed Forces to have modern and effective equipment useful for the country's defense needs. We will determine that troops are redeployed as needed so that the utilization of available means can bring about satisfactory results as expected by the Argentine people.

The Armed Forces will be imbued with a firm doctrine of national defense, definitively casting off the so-called doctrine of national security from both their actions and their cadres' training, considering that the latter doctrine has caused so much disruption in the country's international and foreign affairs.

These ideas will be the basis for the Armed Forces reform, to which the democratic government is committed. We will carry out this reform through the men who assumed the highest responsibilities today.

By making these changes, we are taking a concrete and all-important step toward the definitive integration of the Armed Forces into the normal functioning of all constitutional institutions within the structure of a modern state so that the Armed Forces will be respected and appreciated by the people from the midst of whom they draw their ranks.

The president of the nation, in his capacity as commander in chief, today appointed Brigadier General Julio A. Fernandez Torres as chief of staff of the Armed Forces, Brigadier General Jorge Arguindeguy as Army Joint Staff chief, Rear Admiral Ramon Antonio Arosa as Navy Joint Staff chief, and Major General Teodoro Guillermo Waldner as Air Force Staff chief.

Outgoing Commanders' Comments

PY142344 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2003 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (NA) -- The public declarations of the outgoing commanders of the V and II Army Corps, Generals Enrique Wehner and Alfredo Esposito, respectively, on the National Reorganization Process [PRN] and the coming to power of the democratic government were revealed today.

In Bahia Blanca, bidding goodbye to the Peronists, Gen Wehner said that the PRN "did not fail" because the objective of restoring democracy "has been achieved" despite the attempts to "boycott" the elections. Wehner said that reaching the objective "justified in some way all that has been done," thus contradicting the ideas expressed by President Alfonsin in his message to Congress that "those who believe that the ends justified the means assume that a wonderful future will erase past culpability caused by ethical deviations and crimes." Wehner added that "the objective was to bring about the country's institutionalization, and I believe that should be accredited, although few say it, to our Armed Forces, not just to the Army.

He asserted that elections were held on 30 October despite all the efforts made to suppress them "by boycotting, badmouthing persons and institutions, and forging allegedly signed documents."

The retiring general recognized that the NRP had "a great deal of uncertainties toward the end, but that it had held as much hope and faith as at the beginning." He added that in practice "the objectives desired were not achieved, but we are at the threshold of a new period now, and we have to put our shoulders to it."

He called upon the authorities, the people, and the Army itself "not to forget the lessons from the hardships and up-and-downs we have experienced for some time, so as not to trip over the same stumbling blocks."

In Rosario Gen Alfredo Esposito said that the home stretch toward institutionalization was a joy for all Argentines. Inwardly and outwardly I share that joy over the triumph of democracy. General Esposito warned about the possibility of a subversive resurgence during the current constitutional period. He said that "a democratic government has to build up some self-protection against such a resurgence, because that would take us back to the past."

Esposito made these remarks after the ceremony in which he took leave from his subordinates in the II Corps. The ceremony was held in the premises of the 121 Communications Battalion.

PRESIDENT EXCHANGES MESSAGES WITH USSR PRESIDIUM

PY141732 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] The Supreme Soviet Presidium of the USSR has sent a message to Dr Raul Alfonsin in which it wishes him success in fulfilling his high and responsible mission for the benefit of the friendly Argentine people and for the strengthening of universal peace.

The Argentine president has expressed his thanks, through Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, for the message and stated that the contribution to ensuring peace, security, and justice in international relations will be a priority of his government.

ALFONSIN HOSTS LATIN AMERICAN POLITICIANS

PY141915 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0150 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin hosted a barbecue for a group of Latin American opposition politicians in the Olivos residence tonight.

Among the 40 politicians in attendance, there were Wilson Ferreyra Aldunate, leader of the Uruguayan Blanco Party; Carlos Andres Perez, a former Venezuelan president; Andres Townsend Ezcurra, member of the Peruvian APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] and president of the Latin American Parliament; Lopez Nicholson, former Venezuelan president; Diego Arria, a Venezuelan politician; Enrique Silva Cimma, a Chilean politician; Aniceto Rodriguez Arena, member of the Chilean Social Democratic Party; and Enrique Tejera Paris, member of the Venezuelan Democratic Action Party.

President Alfonsin was accompanied by Victor Martinez, vice president of the nation; Cesar Jaroslavsky, president of the UCR bloc in the Chamber of Deputies; Edison Otero, vice president of the Senate; Odolfo Gass, senator; and Hipolito Solari Irigoyen, ambassador-at-large.

Journalists were allowed to enter the presidential villa and talk briefly with the politicians at the side of the villa's swimming pool, where the barbecue was being held.

Ferreyra Aldunate announced that the group of Latin American politicians would issue a document reasserting that democracy is the best system of government. The document would also urge the need for unity of efforts to restore democracy in all the Latin American countries. The Uruguayan Blanco Party leader said that the newspaper EL PAIS of Montevideo was closed because it had printed his name. He said the measure was adopted for fear of the contagious Argentine experience, because the two most catching things are freedom and laughter, things that make dictatorships shudder.

CAPUTO ON FALKLANDS, BEAGLE CHANNEL PROSPECTS

PY141700 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2030 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (NA) -- Today Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said that the exchange of messages between President Raul Alfonsin and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher brought a "ray of light" on the Malvinas issue. Regarding the Beagle conflict, he confirmed that Hugo Gobbi, undersecretary of foreign relations for special affairs, will travel to the Vatican on 20 December 1983.

He explains, however, that Gobbi's trip, with the purpose of meeting with Vatican Secretary of State Casaroli, will only take place if Chile's "latest position" on the papal proposal is known before that date. Caputo said that "it is not necessary" that the military government of General Augusto Pinochet be replaced by a constitutional government to reach a short-term basic agreement over the Beagle Channel conflict.

In statements to Radio Mitre, Caputo conditioned the trip of a special delegation headed by Gobbi to Rome on the possibility that General Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo, retired, head of the Argentine delegation before the papal mediation, report the latest Chilean position on this matter. Caputo emphasized that the possibility of an armed conflict with Chile "is one of the elements threatening the consolidation of democracy in Argentina, and may have a great deal of influence on the return of democracy in Chile."

In this regard, he said that foreign policy has wide repercussions in the internal affairs of states, because "the reduction of military expenditures (in Argentina) to transfer funds for social expenditures" depends, among other factors, on an agreement with Chile. Caputo said that "although no prior condition for democracy in Chile is necessary, there is a very close relationship between reaching peace in this area, and strengthening democracy."

Regarding the conflict with Great Britain over the Malvinas issue, Caputo said that "there is a ray of light" between the two countries due to the recent exchange of telegrams as a result of Raul Alfonsin's inauguration, a light "we hope will be maintained and strengthened, so that it may illuminate the future." He emphasized, however, that "the negotiations over the Malvinas are going to be very dificult, very hard, and are no comparison with what is going to happen with the Beagle conflict."

In this regard he pointed out that the first step will be "seeing" how the negotiations between the two countries interrupted by the war last year "are renewed." He added that "it is very difficult to forget our dead soldiers."

Caputo also revealed that the Argentine "nuclear issue," among other matters, was discussed during the meeting held by President Raul Alfonsin with U.S. Vice President George Bush last Saturday.

The new foreign minister also said that as a result of the meetings held by Alfonsin with the Spanish and Italian prime ministers, Felipe Gonzalez and Bettino Craxi respectively, among others, "ideas and relationships which will allow us to reshape our foreign policy were established."

Asked about the appointment of ambassadors, he said that "they will be men of high standing" particularly in those countries "where Argentine foreign policy will deploy all its efforts." He added: "Great Britain has very hard, very definite positions with some touch of arrogance which do not go along with the willingness to solve this problem."

He pointed out that "the fact that a telegram was sent indicates in some way a consideration for the democratic government which has just been installed in Argentina."

He emphasized that "time, prudence, and restraint in all the statements made" are necessary to return to the negotiating table with Great Britain.

He revealed that during the Alfonsin meeting with Bush -- which he also attended -- the Central American situation, and the Argentine "nuclear issue," among other matters, were discussed. He indicated that during the meetings held by Alfonsin with foreign leaders, they clearly explained Argentine common principles in the sense that this is our democracy, that this (concept) of freedom is our concept and not from other countries." He said, however, "we found things in common with them (the U.S. delegation) and the Europeans."

In conclusion he said that "70 percent" of the meetings, instead of being protocol meetings, were "very useful" because "we were able to put mechanisms in operation for following up agreements we already made."

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES DENIAL ON CHILE, OAS

PY150136 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (TELAM) -- The Press Office of the San Martin Palace denied today, on behalf of Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, the content of two dispatches regarding Chile and the OAS that were published today. Regarding the Washington-datelined dispatch on the OAS, the Foreign Ministry Press Office sharply denied that our country is thinking about proposing the reforms mentioned in that dispatch.

The Foreign Ministry has no proposal to make regarding the Caribbean countries whose chief of state is the British Queen, nor about the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty, nor any other proposal mentioned in the Washington-datelined dispatch.

The new Foreign Ministry understands that the activities of the OAS have to be appropriate for the times, and therefore its charter needs some amendments, but not those mentioned.

The other dispatch, which was flatly denied, referred to the one published today in a financial journal saying that Pinochet's replacement by constitutional authorities is a prerequisite to reaching a basic agreement on the southern border dispute in the near future. The head of the Press Office, Albino Gomez, asked the journalist to clarify that none of the two dispatches reflects the thinking of Minister Caputo, who said nothing like that to the press.

Regarding the OAS, the dispatch said that Argentina will oppose attempts to divide the Inter-American organization into blocs, in a manner resembling the current existence of a Caribbean bloc hostile to a Latin American bloc. The dispatch added that every year more and more states that recognize the British Queen as their chief of state enter the OAS, and every time this happens, it becomes more obvious that the representatives of that queen (as is the case of Australia and Grenada) arrogate for themselves more than formal powers. This would tend to form a pro-monarchy group inside a purely republican institution.

CENTRAL BANK ISSUES DECREE ON DEBT PAYMENT

PY141725 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] The Central Bank yesterday released a statement approving the refinancing of the foreign debt by means of promissory notes (forward exchange cover) in a contract broadly similar to the controversial Aerolineas Argentinas debt rescheduling contract. This move is expected to remove one of the main barriers to the release of the 900 million dollar IMF standby. However, the Central Bank statement was dated December 9, i.e. the now defunct military regime had approved the promissory notes. When asked if the approval still applied, Grinspun replied that all measures stood until they were changed.

The terms of the promissory notes define any legal challenge of the validity of the debt by the government as "default", at which point the whole debt, including principal and interest, would become liable. New York State courts are mentioned together with Argentine courts as suitable venues of jurisdiction and Point 9 of the proposed promissory notes contract even states that they should be "adjudged according to the laws of the State of New York and interpreted in accordance with the said laws." The proposed interest rates are two percent above the London International Borrowing Rate.

PERON MEETS ALFONSIN, PARTY LEADERS; URGES UNITY

PY141647 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Dec 83 p 11

[Text] Peronist leaders of both branches of the General Confederation of Labour yesterday promised Justicialist Party President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron to unify the labour movement leadership while Mrs Peron, at a separate meeting, urged her party's national legislators to work constructively with the Radical administration, out of "basic respect for the adversary who won cleanly," and "in the country's benefit."

Mrs Peron also held a private interview tih President Raul Alfonsin yesterday morning, which she later described as "marvelous." Mrs Peron said Alfonsin is a "brilliant President," and presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez said the President was "very satisfied" with the interview. Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli, who was not present at the meeting, nevertheless described it as a get-together of "two great leaders of this country" who "have committed themselves to...consolidating democracy."

A spokesman present at the meeting with Mrs Peron at the Plaza Hotel quoted her as having said that "when there are two CGT's, neither of them gives the orders, and that is the result of the government's strategy."

Another union leader present at the meeting with Mrs Peron at the Plaza Hotel said that leaders of both branches of the CGT had "embraced and agreed to work for the unity of the CGT," while Jorge Triaca, secretary general of the CGT-Azopardo, said that many of the union leaders had been moved to tears by the former President's words.

The Justicialist Party released a statement signed by Lorenzo Miguel, its vice-president, calling on members to "strengthen the movement's unity," in complying with "explicit instructions" imparted by Mrs Peron during a meeting Monday evening with members of the party's executive board and the powerful 62 Organizations.

Party sources yesterday released what they described as an almost verbatim text of the address delivered by Mrs Peron at that meeting. She had strong words for those responsible for the October 30 electoral defeat, and said she will "come to head Peronism, but as a great movement. If you want a small party, you can't count on me, and don't complain if I set things in their place."

The party president told her followers that "we lost because of our mistakes," and emphasized that "we must be aware we have put on a regrettable show, and now have a very sad image abroad."

Mrs Peron told her listeners that "the conscience of a well-born man tells him when he has made mistakes and when he must leave," and emphasized that "when a leader has extreme ambition, he must be aware of the damage he is inflicting on the movement and the people he claims to represent."

Peron Addresses Nation

PY141821 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1553 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Tucuman, 14 Dec (TELAM) -- Former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron said today that political sovereignty and social justice will become fertile realities only if we succeed in ensuring economic independence.

In her message addressed to all Argentines from the Historical House in Tucuman, the former president said from the same place where the independence of the nation was proclaimed, and where in 1947, economic independence was declared, that she wished to bear testimony to being loyal to the mandate of the workers of the country.

The ceremony took place in the room where the members of the Congress proclaimed independence. It was attended by the Justicialist governors elected on 30 October and the members of the entourage accompanying her.

INTELLIGENCE SECRETARY ON AGENCY'S STRUCTURE

PY142258 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1454 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (TELAM) -- Secretary for State Intelligence Roberto Pena stated today that under this government this agency will have a structure that is compatible with democracy, with due respect for the citizen's privacy and human rights.

Pena noted that the secretariat's function is to process data and generate information for the president. He said that it has no executive functions, that is, it cannot take any action on the streets against the citizens.

In statements to journalists assigned to Government House after holding a meeting with President Raul Alfonsin, Pena said: We are studying the secretariat's administrative structure, which is very large.

In this regard, Pena said that it must still be determined whether there is anything that may be trimmed, or whether there is a need to incorporate additional services so that the president may have better information which he needs for deciding on necessary policies. Anyway, to gather all the information from our country and even review information from abroad requires a fairly large structure to process it and to run an intelligence operation."

Pena was asked whether it would still be necessary to request information from SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] before making any appointments for public positions. "They have not asked me thus far," Pena replied.

Pena stated that the secretariat is processing information required by the president for making policy, but he denied that such information is aimed at implementing security measures. This information is to safeguard democracy, but to safeguard it through information and not through direct measures, Pena noted.

Pena said that at this time there are many side positions held by military men. Some are directors on active duty, but we do not yet know if they will keep their positions, he said. Pena also noted that the agency's secretary and undersecretary are civilians. Pena said that for the military men this position is a military assignment, and that in a way it is not up to us whether they will hold their positions; it is up to the Defense Ministry or their branch of the Armed Forces. However, as long as these military men fulfill their duties, they may complete their assignment.

Pena thinks that it would be best to have officials who do not have 2-year assignments but rather permanent officials who gain experience as they perform their duties."

GOVERNMENT DISCUSSES DEMANDS WITH UNIONS

PY141920 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2145 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (DYN) -- Discussions between the government of the Radical Civic Union and the labor union leadership, mostly Peronist, have begun on three subjects: salaries (including the labor-management bargaining committees and Christmas bonus, social welfare projects, and union associations.

The following is a sketch of the subjects discussed today during the 5-hour meeting between the government socioeconomic team and leaders of the General Labor Confederation, Azopardo and Brasil Branches.

Salaries: The government plan that the December salary increase be a fixed sum prevailed. The union leaders accepted it, but rejected the sum of 1,200 pesos demanding 1,800 or 2,000 pesos as a minimum. The government promised that the salary increases in the following months will be higher than the inflation rate, but explained that "for now" there will be no labor-management bargaining committees. The union leaders want half the Christmas bonus on the December salary. They are optimistic.

Social Welfare Projects: A mixed committee was created to try to reconcile the differences. The government wants social welfare projects independent of the unions and with state participation. The unions say that the social welfare projects belong to them, although they accept state supervision and auditing. The discussions are continuing in Congress.

Union Associations: The government wants the urgent approval of an electoral rule to immediately normalize the unions. The unions do not accept the union law of the last military regime, but the government is not willing to reinstate Law 20,615 for the Peronists. The union leaders accept the democratization, but oppose "hurting the structure." The debate is continuing in Congress.

CGT, Government Leaders Meet

PY141650 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Dec 83 p 11

[Text] Both branches of the General Labour Confederation (CGT) met with the ministers of economy, labour and public health for five hours yesterday, with both labour and the government later describing the talks as "constructive." Negotations centred on wage demands, the law of social welfare funds, and the Radical Party's draft-law on union reorganization.

CGT-RA Secretary General Saul Ubaldini told reporters that though "no exact figures were discussed" with respect to the wage issue, Economy Minster Bernardo Grinspun had assured them "workers" buying power would increase progressively from month to month" and that the government wage offer would be announced "sometime this week."

The union leaders were firm in demanding a half-year bonus based on 50 percent of last month's wages, a position reportedly supported by Labour Minister Antonio Mucci, who later separately confirmed that the December wage increase would be of a fixed sum.

On the subject of the existing law of social welfare funds which was decreed in 1969 by the Onganía government, CGT-Azopardo leader Otsando Cavallieri said he had told Public Health Minister Aldo Neri: "The funds are property and the creation of the Argentine labour movement" and thus must remain in union hands. Both sides decided to form a mixed commission to further study the issue, which includes the handling of some three to four million dollars in workers' funds.

Luis Etchezer, CGT-Azopardo secretary general and Radical Party backer, told the HERALD yesterday's union delegation "did not reject" the government's determination that union elections be held, adding that these "are the only way of playing the democratic game."

JUDGE TO INVESTIGATE ENVOY'S DISAPPEARANCE

PY132320 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] (NA) -- Federal Judge Nicasio Dibur travelled to Venezuela yesterday in the pursuit of an investigation into the disappearance of former Argentine ambassador in that nation, Hector Hidalgo Sola, and presumably to probe into contacts reportedly maintained by retired Admiral Eduardo Massera with Montonero leader Mario Firmenich and Lybian President Al-Qadhdhafi.

Dibur was accompanied in his trip by Judge Fernando Olivan, as well as other court officials.

Relatives of the missing official said that Dibur was to make contact with Venezuelan courts in a bid to dig out further information on the victim. Court sources, on the other hand, said that Dibur will seek to hear statements by a former Venezuelan intelligence officer who reportedly knows details of a meeting allegedly held in Caracas among Massera, Firmenich and Al-Qadhdhafi.

ARCE GOMEZ FAILS TO REPORT TO POLICE AUTHORITIES

PY142027 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1945 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (DYN) -- According to reliable sources, former Bolivian Interior Minister Luis Arce Gomez, who is facing an extradition request filed by a U.S. court for drug trafficking, has violated the laws on political asylum in Argentina by not reporting to police authorities to fulfill his monthly residence checkup.

According to information, Arce Gomez was supposed to report to the Superintendency of Federal Security yesterday -- just as he is supposed to do every 13th of the month -- in order to confirm his residence in the federal capital.

Arce Gomez sought refuge in Argentina after Hernan Siles Zuazo's administration took over in Bolivia and the Argentine military government at that time granted him asylum. He was later arrested because of a request for extradition filed by a U.S. court, a request that was not approved. Once he gained his freedom a few weeks ago, he was told that he had to continue reporting to police authorities on the 13th of every month.

According to local Bolivian residents, Arce Gomez changed his place of residence and is trying to leave Argentina "after finding out that all his military friends in Argentina have retired." Argentine Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli will now have to decide whether he should instruct the courts to issue a warrant for his arrest or deprive him of his asylum and order that he be expelled from the country.

QUESTIONING PROMPTS CABINET'S RESIGNATION

FY150106 Paris AFP in Spanish 0047 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] La Paz, 14 Dec (AFP) -- A head-on confrontation between the legislative and executive branches of government today prompted the resignation of the Cabinet of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, and a formal request, submitted by the opposition in Congress, asking that the Supreme Court assume power and immediately call for general elections.

The crisis developed after Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado told the ministers to leave the Senate session room where they were being questioned.

Speaking during a press conference, Ortiz Mercado said that the Cabinet submitted its collective resignation tonight in view of the fact that the Senate would surely cast a vote of no-confidence in the Cabinet.

Meanwhile, Senator Jaime Arellano Castaneda, who belongs to the Historic Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNRH), an opposition party led by former President Victor Paz Estenssoro, proposed that power be handed over to the Supreme Court and that elections be called for 1984.

The serious confrontation between government branches took place as the country was going through the second day of the labor strike decreed by the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB) demanding the enactment of a minimum wage of approximately $300 with a flexible scale. The government has said that it cannot grant such a request.

Further Details

FY150205 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0128 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] La Paz, 14 Dec (EFE) -- In the middle of a general strike that has paralyzed the country for the second consecutive day, the Bolivian Cabinet submitted its collective resignation to President Hernan Siles Zuazo tonight. Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado said that the Cabinet resigned "to facilitate the formation of a new regime of national accord."

Ortiz Mercado explained that the Cabinet's decision will allow President Siles to call for a social, political, and economic truce and to install a new government of national accord. From now on, the minister said, the success or failure of our political life is in the hands and at the disposal of political parties.

The resignation took place after a serious clash between ministers and senators in Congress at the beginning of a new session in which senators were to continue questioning the executive branch. Speaking on behalf of the Cabinet, Ortiz Mercado complained that the legislative branch did not grant the executive branch the right of rebuttal after the senators criticized the government's economic policy. In the Senate session room, Ortiz Mercado engaged in a bitter debate with Senate President Julio Garret and with Senator Luis Anez, who refused to allow Ortiz Mercado to take the floor before he ended his own speech.

Faced with this situation, Ortiz Mercado slammed his fist on the desk and ordered that the entire Cabinet leave for Government House, located a few meters from the Congress building.

Later, the Cabinet hosted a press conference and announced the decision to collectively resign. Cabinet members harshly criticized the senators, charging that congressmen took part in a "factional maneuver led by parties and politicians."

Ortiz Mercado said that it was surprising that the Senate should seek to issue a vote of no-confidence in the Cabinet of Siles Zuazo, "just as he is about to travel to Colombia," where he will meet with the presidents of the Bolivarian countries," where he will meet with the presidents of the Bolivarian countries.

Ortiz Mercado was surprised about the manner in which the Bolivian Senate wanted to accelerate the vote of no-confidence in the Cabinet without listening to the government. This situation has overshadowed the critical Bolovian sociopolitical situation and a workers strike declared by the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB], which is in its second day today, demanding a government solution to the economic crisis. Not even the public enterprises have refused to comply with the COB decision, which demands greater responsibility from the executive branch in view of the economic crisis.

Armando Morales, one of COB main leaders, stated today that the unions have not served severed relations with the government, but they are demanding a consistent economic policy which would not condemn the people to more hunger. COB Executive Secretary Juan Lechin stated that the workers general strike seeks to show the government the dissatisfaction of the labor sectors due to Siles Zuazo's "pro-imperialist" policy. Lechin termed the 48-hour general strike a success, because the unions have responded, with the exception of the transportation workers, who although not rendering normal service, maintain basic service.

In the wake of the strike, no incidents of any kind have occurred in cities of rural towns in the nation, police sources said.

The Cabinet resignation comes at a time when the main cities in Bolivia live in silence due to the decision of radio and television workers to join the general work stoppage by not airing their normal programs, neither newscasts nor musical programs. Newspapers were not published due to the journalists and press workers observance of the general strike. The COB has asked television channels to air programs for children and sports for 4 hours. Thus the population is deprived of general information. The COB has accused the government of noncompliance with its own decrees by refusing to grant automatic salary increases in the wake of a 40-percent increase in the cost of living since November.

SECOND DAY OF GENERAL STRIKE CONTINUES CALMLY

PY142223 Paris AFP in Spanish 1548 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Excerpt] La Paz, 14 Dec (AFP) -- The 48-hour general strike decreed by the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB] continued today in Bolivia for the second consecutive day. This strike almost totally affects the transport service and the mass communications media.

The COB demands the establishment of a minimum survival wage of 150,000 Bolivian pesos (approximately $300) and an escalator clause tied to the increase in the cost of living.

The workers began their second day of strikes in a climate of complete tranquillity. Negotiations between union leaders and ministers of the economic area failed at the last moment. Finance Minister Fernando Baptista Gumucio has reaffirmed that there will be no wage increase this month.

SANTIAGO BLACKED OUT, TERRORISM SUSPECTED

PY150210 Paris AFP in Spanish 0157 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 14 Dec (AFP) -- All of greater Santiago has been blacked out since 2230 (0130 GMT) and, according to initial information, it could be the result of terrorist action.

The semiofficial news agency ORBE has reported that an explosive device destroyed a high-tension pylon in the area of Calera de Tango, 52 km south of Santiago.

The police reported that no one was hurt and that the perpetrators of the attack on the pylon, which collapsed from a very powerful explosion, are being sought on land and in the air by militarized Carabineros.

Downtown Santiago is in darkness, which has caused several traffic problems in this city of 4.3 million because street lights have ceased to function. Hospitals, TV and radio stations and the various public services are using emergency power to keep operating.

CARABINEROS CLASH WITH PUDAHUEL RESIDENTS

PY142349 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Confrontations between Carabineros and inhabitants of the (Herminda de la Victoria) neighborhood in Pudahuel continued last night. The incidents began on Monday night after an aborted attempt to occupy sections of the city continued yesterday in this heavily populated sector of the capital. A citizen who refused to give her name told us of the Carabineros' actions last night:

[Begin recording] We were watching the police on the street. They threw rocks at the people and even insulted us and hurled teargas grenades. One of these grenades hit a house where children were having dinner. We had to yell for help to get the children out of the house before they suffocated. Some children were badly affected by the gas, including a 4-year-old boy. A one-month-old baby, a niece of mine, was also seriously affected, although she is feeling better now. Children and babies sleeping elsewhere also were rushed out in an almost asphyxiated state.

The teargas grenades were horrible. We had to pour water on them; fortunately, neighbors helped each other, which is very siginficant as it is a sign that solidarity exists. [end recording]

According to the testimony of this inhabitant of (Herminda de la Victoria), an indefinite number of persons were detained. She also said that the people do not want to clash with Carabineros over nothing. On the contrary, she said that the inhabitants want to live in peace and that they need assistance to solve their socioeconomic problems.

TORTURE DEMONSTRATIONS 'VIOLENTLY REPRESSED'

PY142234 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Here in the capital we have news from the headquarters of the National Intelligence Center (CNI) located on Republica Street. Carmen Castro, who is there, has more details in this regard.

[Begin Castro recording] Good afternoon, Sergio. A peaceful demonstration against torture held by laymen and religious persons is now being violently repressed between Republica and Alameda Streets. Carabineros are acting violently against the demonstrators, who are chanting and praying in demanding an end to torture. The CNI central headquarters is located two blocks from the action.

The demonstrators arrived at approximately 1300 and presented a declaration stating that everyone knows that the CNI illegally detains persons, that it detains men and women and even children riding their bicycles and tortures them. The headquarters of this torture apparatus is located at 201 and 301 Republic Street. We want to stress the fact that for several minutes Carabineros poured water on the peaceful demonstrators and then hurled teargas grenades to scatter them.

The demonstrators responded with a sit in on the street and chanted and prayed. We also want to stress the fact that pedestrians spontaneously joined the demonstrators in their demand to end torture. [end recording]

BRIEFS

COLOMBIA AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- Dr Vicente Borrero, the new Colombian ambassador to Chile, has presented his credentials to President Augusto Pinochet. [Summary] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 24 Nov 83 p 5 PY]

FIVE NEW UNDER SECRETARIES --The Press Secretariat of the Presidency has announced the following appointments: Lieutenant Colonel Jorge Valenzuela Duran, current deputy director of the Sports and Recreation General Directorate, as economy under secretary; Colonel Manuel Concha Martinez, current economy under secretary, as finance under secretary; Rene Salame Martin, current general director of education, as education under secretary; Colonel Fernando Hormazabal Diaz, current under secretary general of government, as public works under secretary; and Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Krumm Rojas, current director of civil organizations, as under secretary general of government. [Summary] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 29 Nov 83 p 7 PY]

TWO CONVICTS ACQUITTED -- Punta Arenas, Military Prosecutor Rodrigo Gonzalez has told the newspaper EL MERCURIO that ex-radio announcer Francisco Oyarzo and Maria Isabel Fridly Melin, who had been convicted for carrying out espionage activities, have been acquitted by a military court. Oyarzo and Fridly Melin had been sentenced to imprisonment terms of 8 years and of 5 years and 1 day, respectively. [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 13 Nov 83 p C 3 PY]

MIR MEMBERS CONVICTED -- Santiago, 26 Nov (EFE) -- Seven members of a commando of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) have been sentenced to life imprisonment for the holdup of three banks and the death of two Carbineros on 30 December 1980. The convicted people are Rodolfo Rodriguez Moraga, Victor Manuel Zuniga, Nelson Ariel Cartagena, Carlos Garcia Herrera, Gonzalo Gonzalez Quiroga, Juan Gajardo Ortiz and Mirian Ortega. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0041 GMT 27 Dec 83 PY]

STONE, BETANCUR DISCUSS CENTRAL AMERICA

PA142343 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2043 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Bogota, 14 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- According to the Colombia Foreign Ministry, Stone met today with President Belisario Betancur. During the meeting, which lasted for more than an hour, they discussed various factors that have obstructed the achievement of peace in the strife-torn region.

President Ronald Reagan's special envoy arrived in Bogota from Caracas yesterday. After his meeting with Betancur, he left for a destination he refused to disclose. However, Central American diplomatic sources reported that he is to visit Costa Rica tonight and Mexico on Friday.

BETANCUR ROLE IN CHILEAN-BOLIVIAN TALKS NOTED

PA141541 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Bogota -- Peru has agreed to participate in a Chilean-Bolivian dialogue in an effort to find a formula that will allow Bolivians to have an outlet to the sea, President Belisario Betancur disclosed on returning to Colombia after his visit to Argentina.

Betancur also confirmed that the meeting will be held in Bogota on a date to be determined shortly by the parties involved in the negotiations.

When it was announced at the United Nations that Colombia had managed to restore a dialogue between Chile and Bolivia to discuss the problem of Bolivia not having an outlet to the sea, it was because closed-door talks on this topic had already advanced, Betancur said.

Betancur also confirmed that the Bolivarian presidents will be in Colombia this weekend to participate in the final commemoration events of the Liberator's bicentennial.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN REBELS, GOVERNMENT 'IMMINENT'

PA140446 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2027 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Bogota, 13 Dec (DPA) -- John Agudelo Rios, president of the Peace Commission and former labor and social security minister, said today that a peace agreement between the Colombia Government and the leading guerrilla groups operating in the country is imminent.

The Peace Commission representative said that "the process is advancing rapidly, and there are unmistakable signs that an agreement may be reached shortly."

Agudelo Rios said that in its early stages, the agreement would be signed with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), an organization with communist tendencies, not only because of its conduct in condemning the kidnapping of the already-released Magistrate Jaime Betancur, brother of Colombia President Belisario Betancur, but because of its "call to other groups to release kidnapped persons."

Meanwhile, it was learned through unofficial sources that the 19 April Movement, M-19, guerrilla group will soon sign the peace agreement with the Colombian Government. This will not be done through the Peace Commission, however.

One of the high-ranking peace commissioners for the middle Magdalena region, an area where bloody armed confrontations have taken place in the past few months, said today that dialogue has been initiated, "and we believe that definite steps have been taken." The commissioner was referring to the peace agreement that will be signed soon by the FARC, the M-19, and the Colombian Government.

Commissioner Antonio Duque Alvarez, national criminal proceedings director, said that "we hope that before the year ends, we will have a pleasant surprise." During an unpublicized press conference with reporters, the M-19 said that it is ready to sign a truce with the government, but directly, without any mediators.

PLANE CRASH IN MEDELLIN, CASUALTIES REPORTED

PA142232 Paris AFP in Spanish 2210 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 14 Dec (AFP) -- At least 12 persons were killed today when a plane crashed into a factory in this city in northwestern Colombia, Colombian authorities reported.

A Tampa Airline Boeing 707 with a crew of three carrying a shipment of flowers to Miami crashed 2 minutes after takeoff from Olaya Herrera Airport when one of its engines apparently exploded.

Most of the victims were workers in the textile factory, which was totally destroyed by the resulting fire. A taxi driver also died of burns.

Members of the Red Cross, Civil Defense, and the police are participating in rescue operations, and some 15 persons with serious burns have been taken to nearby hospitals. The authorities believe that there could be more victims in the debris.

According to incomplete reports, the plane's departure had been delayed by 5 hours, due to problems with one of the engines.

VICE PRESIDENT ON CONTINENTAL ISSUES, PROSPECTS

PA141717 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2206 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Quito, 13 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Ecuadoran Vice President Leon Roldos said today that Central America's current problems stem from economic, political, and social structures and are not manifestations of the East-West conflict.

Roldos talked with REUTER after meeting behind close doors for approximately 1 hour with William Middendorf, the permanent U.S. representative to the OAS, who is on an official visit to Ecuador.

Roldos said that "several U.S. Government viewpoints on problems in Latin America were discussed" during his meeting with the White House representative.

Roldos said that in the current historical and political circumstances in Latin America, including Central America, the United States has acted with the idea of safeguarding democracy, as the United States defines it.

"I think that Latin America can and must find its own concept of democracy, not the concept in which the United States is interested, nor can we accept any concept emerging from political-economic systems which lack tradition and are not related to the Latin American spirit," he said.

Roldos added that, "to the extent that we are independent of international powers; to the extent that we avoid nonalignment; to the extent that we do not become a theatre of the East-West confrontation, we will be building a future for Latin America."

He reiterated that Latin America is experiencing structural problems that are typical of this continent, "although, unfortunately, the powers which are parties to the East-West conflict want to be parties within the circumstances characteristic of our continent."

He said that within the Latin American context, Cuba is a 25-year-old process which is not exporting revolution.

"That Cuba will be present wherever revolutionary positions or demands for change exist is to be expected, just as the United States will be present in any country in which political circumstances permit. But to the extent that we find ways to get along with the United States and Cuba, we will be building a Latin America," he said.

OFFICIAL REPORTS ON OPEC MEETING IN GENEVA

PA141612 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Patricio Ribadeneira [manager of the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation] said on his return from Geneva that the OPEC meeting there decided to ensure that the production quotas assigned to each country would not be unilaterally exceeded.

[Begin recording] [Ribadeneira] The objective of the OPEC meeting was to find internal measures to strengthen the organization and, above all, to stabilize the market. Internal controls were approved so that production will not exceed the quotas and ceilings established for each country. There will be a special follow-up committee which will call another meeting of the ministers at the opportune moment so that additional measures can be adopted if the price has not been strengthened and stabilized. These measures might include the reduction of the production quotas and ceilings.

[Unidentified reporter] How did Ecuador benefit from this meeting, specifically in the marketing sector? Did we gain anything?

[Ribadeneira] Two things were achieved in this respect. One deals with the general strengthening of the market. The general opinion of the OPEC members is that, by the end of this month and the first weeks of next year, the price will stabilize on the basis of reducing the existing surplus supply in the market. The meeting was also used to continue establishing contacts with other countries so they will assist us in marketing our crude oil, both through technical aid and information, as well as attracting possible future clients.

[Reporter] Some petroleum experts say that after prices are stabilized Ecuador should begin a phase of aggressive marketing. What are the possibilities for this?

[Ribadeneira] Well, of course, in addition to aggressive marketing, Ecuador needs stable and long-term marketing. It is important that we have a group of buyers with 3, 4, or 5-year contracts and that they be ultimate, rather than intermediary consumers; in other words, refiners or state enterprises purchasing petroleum for their respective countries. [end recording]

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH BELGIUM -- Ecuador has signed an agreement whereby the Belgian Government will grant 200 million Belgian francs in credits to partially finance the acquisition of Belgian assets and services to be used to carry out several private sector projects included in the national development plan. The terms of the agreement are very beneficial for Ecuador, since payments will be spread out over a 30-year period, including a 10-year grace period, at a fixed 2-percent annual interest rate, calculated on debit balances. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Dec 83 PA]

REGIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE -- A conference on Latin America's energy demands is being held in Quito. The event was organized by the Latin American Energy Organization. High-level officials from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, and Panama are participating in this event. [Summary] [Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Dec 83 PA]

STROESSNER ON C. AMERICA, ECONOMY, COMMUNISM

PY141440 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 11 Dec 83 p 10

[Interview with Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner by Spanish magazine TIEMPO -- place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] How do you view the Central American problem? Will peace be achieved?

[Answer] Central America is experiencing an extremely serious problem. Peace must be achieved, but not at the high price of subjecting the area to the aggressive forces of international communism. I express my sincere hope that that strip of American continent will cease to be the site of fighting among brothers and that communist aggression will be definitely destroyed.

[Question] How would you define the democracy your country is experiencing?

[Answer] A democracy without communism and without communists that is based on freedom within the framework of order; on peace with justice; and on development based on the honest and fruitful work of men.

[Question] Do you believe that Latin American integration must be a reality?

[Answer] Not only should it be achieved, it is imperative that it be achieved, and the sooner the better.

[Question] What measures has your government adopted to solve the foreign debt problem?

[Answer] We have implemented a rigid austerity policy within the government; we are promoting production so that exports may increase our currency income. All countries are experiencing a difficult time, but Paraguay is not in such a desperate or dramatic situation. We shall continue to improve our international trade. Paraguay shall continue to rely on its healthy economy so that it may continue to pay its debts.

[Question] Do you believe there is an international campaign to undermine the stability of your country?

[Answer] International communism is carrying out a constant campaign against my country. Since Paraguay is a true anti-marxist stronghold in Spanish-speaking America, communist centers throughout the world, with accomplices and supporters, are striving to destabilize my country with the objective of transforming it into a new Cuba or into a copy of the militarized Nicaragua.

[Question] Do you believe that international organizations such as the United Nations and the OAS, etc are fulfilling the task entrusted to them by the member countries?

[Answer] We must perfect the functioning of international organizations, although this is a complex and difficult task. Fortunately, there are good possibilities to achieve this, but there is a lack of initiative in this regard. Perhaps in the end it is a question of good will.

APRA, IU ABANDON 'TENSE' BUDGET DEBATES

PY141745 Lima Cadena Nacional del Peru Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] and United Left [IU] blocs in the Chamber of Deputies abandoned the chamber today when the law on financing the 1984 budget was being discussed in too tense an atmosphere.

APRA Deputy Alan Garcia and IU Deputy Manuel Dammert stated on behalf of their respective blocs that they did not want to be accomplices in the approval of a law that did not favor the neediest classes.

The APRA bloc had previously filed a motion of censure against Chamber President Lainez, who was defended by Deputy Jorge Diaz Leon.

HEALTH WORKERS LEAVE SHIFTS AS STRIKE WORSENS

PA141605 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] The strike of the 55,000 Peruvian health workers, which has just completed its first month, worsened today when the strikers abandoned the emergency shifts which they had been working until today. They decided to radicalize the strike when the government again refused to meet their demands of wage improvements, labor stability, and other aspirations.

In Puno, the second day of general strike ended as the people demanded government funds of $250,000 for the reconstruction of that Peruvian department and other official measures aimed at solving the problems caused by an extended drought.

In Lima, Carlos Capelletti, Aprista deputy for Ayacucho Department, asked the Armed Forces to vacate that region and avoid further bloodshed. Capelletti said that if the Armed Forces cannot act with intelligence and caution, it would be better for them to vacate the region and avoid the daily sacrifice of innocent peasants, who are later described by police as subversive elements.

Another report noted that members of the Shining Path clandestine armed group supposedly attacked the production centers of the Laive and (Antapongor) firms in Huancayo, taking a large amount of explosives.

ZAMBRANO: NEW CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE PROSPECTS

PA141232 Paris AFP in Spanish 0021 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Caracas, 13 Dec (AFP) -- Venezuelan Foreign Minister Alberto Zambrano Velasco said here today that "there are new prospects for peace in Central America."

Zambrano made the statement today at the conclusion of the visits to Caracas by Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge; Richard Stone, special U.S. ambassador for Central America; and Antoine Blanca, roving French ambassador to Latin America and the Caribbean.

The visitors talked separately with Luis Herrera Campins, the outgoing Christian Democratic president, and with the Social Democratic president-elect, Jaime Lusinchi, who will assume power in February. The main topic of the six meetings was Central America.

When talking about the new prospects for peace in the area, Zambrano stressed the efforts of the Contadora Group (Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela), and "the actions of some envoys" from the United States. This was an allusion to Stone and to the U.S. Bipartisan Commission headed by Henry Kissinger, who is expected in Caracas on Wednesday.

Regarding Contadora, Zambrano stressed that a new meeting of the group will be held 20-21 December. A new meeting with the Central American foreign ministers will be scheduled during that meeting.

KISSINGER ARRIVES IN CARACAS, TO MEET PRESIDENT

PA142220 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state, is in Caracas. Kissinger arrived in Venezuela a few moments ago. He heads a Bipartisan Commission for Central America appointed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The former U.S. secretary of state arrived in Venezuela from Mexico, and is accompanied by a large delegation. He will meet tonight with Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, and a meeting between Kissinger and Venezuelan President-elect Jaime Lusinchi has been scheduled for tomorrow.

COSTA RICA

ATTACK ON U.S. EMBASSY GUARDS CONFIRMED

PA141641 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1626 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] San Jose, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Two armed and hooded men entered the U.S. Embassy gardens in "Escazu," 10 km from downtown, and opened fire on the Costa Rican police who guard the embassy.

The incident, which claimed no victims, occurred 2 nights ago, but was not confirmed until today by Colonel Marco Munoz, metropolitan police director. Munoz reported that the intruders used automatic weapons to attack the authorities, who repelled the attack. The authorities then pursued the intruders, who managed to escape.

The official report noted that U.S. Ambassador Curtin Winsor stepped outside his residence when he heard the shooting, and when the incident was over, personally thanked each of the policemen guarding the embassy.

TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMAND TO BE CREATED

PA141654 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] A tactical communications command will be created in Costa Rica and will begin operating in March with a special communications network to be run by the Civil Guard director. Deputy Security Minister Johnny Campos made this announcement, adding that this communications network will cover the entire national territory.

The U.S. Government will donate all the equipment that is to be used in the main plant, along with the repeaters for the tactical communications command. The equipment is already being brought out of storage. According to the deputy minister, this secret communications network will handle everything connected with the country's security.

BRIEFS

SECURITY MINISTER VISITS TAIWAN -- Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano Calderon is visiting Taiwan at the invitation of that government. As a result of this courtesy visit, some aid may be obtained for Costa Rica. Solano Calderon has canceled his planned visit to South Korea in order to return home for the holidays. [Summary] [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 83 PA]

EL SALVADOR

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY APPROVES CONSTITUTION

PA150255 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0240 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The new Salvadoran Constitution was approved tonight. The Constitution Assembly approved the last article regarding the form of payment for the land that will be expropriated by the state, and thus done, the new magna carta was completed.

The Constitution will be signed by all deputies tomorrow and will go into effect on 20 December. -

COPREFA DECLARATION REPUDIATES DEATH SQUADS

PA150242 Paris AFP in Spanish 2221 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Dec (AFP) -- The Armed Forces High Command and the commanders of El Salvador's military and public security corps have repudiated the right-wing death squads, which have increased their internal activities during the past few weeks.

In a declaration issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee (COPREFA) today, all the commanders endorse a recent statement made by Defense Minister Eugenio Vides Casanova to the effect that the ultrarightist death squads should disappear forever. The commanders say that Vides' position "reflects th thoughts and sentiments of all members of the Armed Forces."

The FMLN has insistently accused members of the Army, including some high-ranking officials in "key" posts, of being involved with the death squads.

In today's declaration, the Army calls on the Salvadoran people to report to the proper authorities "any information that contributes to the identification and capture of members of the death squads." Moreover, it reiterates its "firm determination" to combat these ultrarightist organizations and "terrorist" groups with every available means until they are definitely eradicated from El Salvador.

In addition, the Army urges the judicial branch to apply "the full weight" of the law to these groups. The Army simultaneously reiterated its full support for the judicial branch.

FMLN REPORTEDLY OCCUPIES CACAGUATIQUE HILL

PA142026 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1520 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- A current total of 63 Army troops and 14 guerrillas have been killed during the rebel occupation of the important communications center on Cacaguatique Hill, "Radio Venceremos" reported today.

The FMLN today reported that at 1700 (2300 GMT) yesterday afternoon it occupied the communications installations for the second time this year. The rebel station said that fighting began early yesterday morning, and that fighting was still underway at 0730 (1330 GMT) this morning.

FMLN leader Joaquin Villalobos announced on "Radio Venceremos" that an Army battalion had been completely dislodged from its positions on Cacaguatique Hill. The rebels simultaneously attacked three nearby townships -- Ciudad Barrios, Osicala, and Delicias de Concepcion.

According to a provisional report by the rebels, 63 Army troops, including a cadet lieutenant, and 14 guerrillas, including a squad leader, had been killed.

This is the first time this year that the guerrillas have admitted such a high number of casualties on their side. The FMLN operation on Cacaguatique Hill was described by Villalobos "as the greatest FMLN action in Morazan Department." Villalobos added that the objective of the rebel troops was to inflict as many casualties on the Army as possible and to wear them down.

According to the rebel report, the defeated government troops belong to the "Tecana" Battalion based in the western city of Santa Ana, at the opposite end of the country.

The rebels claimed to have seized a large arsenal: U.S.-made RW [as received] rifles, a 120-mm mortar, 3 grenade launchers, a 90-mm gun, 21 grenades, 3 mortars, and 2 machineguns. This is the third 120-mm mortar that the FMLN has seized from the Army. The first was taken in Morazan Department near Sociedad township.

"Radio Venceremos" charged that during the fighting two aircraft and a helicopter bombed positions on Cacahuatique Hill for 11 hours. The rebel station said that 120 bombs were dropped and 150 rockets launched, and that many civilians had been killed. A coffee processing mill near Cacahuatique was seriously damaged, the rebels reported.

At 0700 (1300 GMT) this morning the insurgents said they had complete control of Hacienda Hill, where the Army had one of its last positions near the communications center.

Brigade Issues Communique

PA1503J7 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Communique No 2, issued by the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade General Command of the FMLN of El Salvador, in Morazan; dated 14 December 1983]

[Text] Today, 14 December, the victorious results from the operation against the strategic enemy position on Cacahuatique Hill increased when the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade fighters clashed with enemy reinforcements advancing from Delicias de Concepcion and near Ciudad Barrios toward Cacahuatique Hill. Colonel Domingo Monterrosa was present near Ciudad Barrios to try to conduct the advance of the reinforcements from the paratroopers and San Miguel's Cazadores battalions. He was also coordinating the advance of enemy troops from other areas. Yesterday, the reinforcements that were sent could do nothing to prevent the defeat of the Tecana Battalion which was defending the Cacahuatique Hill summit. Today, a Treasury Police elite group advancing from Delicias de Concepcion clashed with our Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade; it suffered 18 casualties, including 4 dead. This is the first time the Treasury Police have been dispatched to fight in Morazan. This elite group was forced to retreat to their starting point.

The paratroopers and the San Miguel Cazadores battalions, led by Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, tried to advance from Ciudad Barrios to the base of the Cacahuatique Hill. However, while they were attempting to reach the hill, they clashed with our contingents. The fighting lasted through noon today; the enemy reinforcements were then forced to stop their advance because of the large number of dead and wounded they had suffered.

The Arce, Morazan, Paratroopers, and San Miguel Cazadores battalions and the Treasury Police's elite group participating in the operation to recover the strategic positions on Cacahuatique were defeated in their attempt to advance. Many soldiers of the Tecana Battalion who had been wounded and disbanded could not be evacuated; therefore, the number of dead from the Tecana Battalion has now increased.

In applying the tactic of wearing down the dictatorship's active forces, our Rafael Arce Zablah fighters today achieved a new victory. The enemy has suffered more than 100 dead since yesterday, and the figure of 75 enemy wounded increased today. However, it has been impossible to establish the exact figure because of the large number of casualties.

The following are the overall figures for weapons recovered from the enemy: 47 m-16 rifles; 3 60-mm mortars and an unspecified number of grenades; 3 M-60 marchineguns; 1 81-mm mortar and an unspecified number of grenades; 1 90-mm cannon with 21 rockets; 3 M-79 grenade launchers; 3 PRC-77 radios; and other military equipment.

During the fighting on Cacahuatique Hill, our revolutionary army recovered a piece of heavy artillery from the dictatorship -- a 120-mm mortar. This is the third we have recovered [7 second break in transmission]

The number of prisoners captured has risen to 12. Three soldiers of the dictatorship were captured during the fighting near Ciudad Barrios.

After achieving the military objectives on Cacahuatique Hill, our forces have begun an operation of growing resistance and attrition for the withdrawal of the northern groups of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade participating in this successful operation.

Long live the heroic and invincible fighters of the Rafael Arce Zablah! The FMLN fights and wins to convert the insulting wealth of the oligarchs into health, food, education, and welfare for our people. Revolution or death, we will win!

Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade General Command

[Signed] Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Commander Juan Ramon Medrano, Commander Mercedes del Carmen Letona, Commander Claudio Rabindranath Armijo, Commander Jorge Melendez, Commander Ana Sonia Medina, Commander Joaquin Villalobos

FMLN ISSUES DECREE ON AGRICULTURE WAGES

PA141247 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Decree issued by the FMLN of El Salvador establishing a "Platform of Wages and Other Benefits Set by the FMLN for the Present Cotton Harvest"; dated 13 December]

[Text] Whereas:

1. For years national resources and great profits have been in the hands of the large-scale coffee, cotton, and cane growers in the country at the expense, exploitation, misery, and labor of thousands of Salvadoran peasants;

2. The unjust living conditions to which agricultural workers are subjected have been aggravated by an increasing cost of living, with staple products such as corn, beans, sugar, milk, and other products becoming luxuries, while the wages paid to harvesters have decreased from previous years;

3. At present, agricultural workers receive arbitrary wages paid by the coffee, cotton, and cane growers because dictatorships not only fail to promote the welfare of the workers, but actually repress and threaten them whenever they make a just demand;

4. Once the harvest is over, unemployment is the immediate prospect for agricultural workers, the wages accumulated during the harvest season being the sole means of sustenance for thousands of Salvadoran peasant families for the rest of the year.

In view of the above, the FMLN decrees, for the present cotton picking season, wage increases and improvement of working conditions for the workers. The following has been decided:

1. Wage increase to 18 colones per quintal of cotton picked;

2. Payment of 18 colones per 6-hour day, or for an 8-hour day that includes transportation time from the picking to the weighing sites;

3. Payment of 18 colones for Sunday pay [por el Septimo]

4. Food for the workers must include a portion of rice and beans, three tortillas, and coffee at each meal;

5. Medical assistance for the workers: A first aid kit must be available, and, in serious cases, the managers must send the ailing to a hospital.

6. Workers must continue to earn their daily wages of 18 colones for each day that they are absent due to illness;

7. Cotton scales must be accurate, without lead weights or imbalances;

8. Payment of transportation for workers when their wages are paid outside their work centers;

9. Owners and managers must treat cotton pickers and other personnel fairly;

10. There should be no guards or soliders at the work centers.

The FMLN calls on peasants who are picking cotton to struggle to achieve their just labor benefits and to inform the FMLN military units and political structures of any failure to comply with these instructions.

The FMLN will guarantee observance of this decree in all the areas where cotton will be picked. Revolution or death, we will win.

[Dated] 13 December 1983

MILITIAS SCORE AGRICULTURAL INJUSTICES

PA141233 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Report from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front of the FMLN of El Salvador, by correspondent Vidal Fuentes]

[Text] The militias are fully supporting the FMLN's campaign for better wages and social benefits for our brothers, the coffee harvesters.

On 6 December, members of the militia occupied [words indistinct] farm, 5 km north of Zacatecoluca, on the hillsides of Chinchontepec Volcano, a guerrilla bastion. The militias talked to the workers for 30 minutes and distributed propaganda urging the workers to organize themselves and to continue struggling for their rights.

On 8 December, our militias occupied the Monte de Oro, La Florida, and Santa Eduviges farms, 7 km north of Zacatecoluca. Members of the militia talked to the workers for approximately 1 hour, explaining to them the injustice committeed by the dictatorship and coffee plantation owners in not paying them just wages.

From the coffee zone in Zacatecoluca, we have received reports on crimes and other abuses against our brothers carried out by the troops of Colonel Mario Dennis Moran. On 3 December, members of the Armed Forces Information Center, CIFA, dressed in civilian clothes, went to Santa Lucia canton, 4 km north of Zacatecoluca, where they tried to pass themselves off as members of the FMLN. While there they threatened the population and savagely murdered the youths Fidel Sanchez Hernandez, Gerardo de Jesus Estrada, and Jose Fabian Navarrete.

On 7 December, a similar group wearing civilian clothes and carrying pistols [words indistinct] demanding 5 colones from each worker or threatening to destroy his coffee baskets.

The CIFA's dogs are on the prowl. [Words indistinct] another group dressed in civilian clothes left the military garrison in Zacatecoluca and went to Piedra Grande canton, where they captured three women and a young man, who has since disappeared.

This is the type of protection that the puppet Armed Forces is giving to the rural workers in the coffee zone, who are asking 4.50 colones for every 25 lbs of coffee beans they collect. Instead, they are being murdered and robbed, and their fundamental rights are being trampled upon.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS LATEST CLASHES

FMLN Occupies Army Positions

PA141238 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Report from the Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front of the FMLN of El Salvador]

[Text] At 1300 on Monday, 12 December, revolutionary units from the southern group of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade attacked enemy positions at La Cruzadilla de San Juan Estate on the coastal highway. The enemy forces were comprised of approximately 60 men from the 4th Detachment, Usulutan. The dictatorship's troops fled in complete disarray, and their positions were occupied by our revolutionary forces. The fighting lasted 3 hours, during which traffic on the coastal highway was halted. In the fighting, the enemy sustained 18 casualties: 10 dead and 8 injured. Subsequently, some 3 companies of enemy reinforcements arrived from Usulutan. They fired only from a distance, without advancing. Similarly, two helicopter gunships arrived and strafed the area, resulting in several dead and wounded among the civilian population.

For our part, we regret the heroic death of a fellow fighter, Companero Danilo. The operation was led by Commander Nelson.

Attacks on Civilians Noted

PA141619 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Excerpts] At 2230 on 3 December, CIFA [Armed Forces Information Center] soldiers wearing civilian clothes arrived in Santa Luisa Canton, located on the foothills of the Chinchontepec Volcano, 4 km north of Zacatecoluca, and, posing as guerrillas, threatened the civilian population. The soldiers seized three minors named Fidel Sanchez, Gerardo de Jesus Estrada, and Jose Fabian Navarrete and immediately and savagely murdered them.

On the morning of December 6, the people of San Jacinto Canton, San Vicente Department, were the victims of a criminal attack by the Ramon Belloso Battalion. The enemy troops advanced on (Jaitepec) Hill, located east of Tecoluca, and fired at four peasants who were working in the fields. The four peasants and all the townsfolk were forced to flee. After the attack the soldiers either stole or destroyed the peasants' humble belongings.

The people's powers in the area denounce and strongly condemn this new attack against our humble and hard-working people by the Belloso Battalion, trained by the United States.

Here is further information on the criminal activities of the dictatorship's Army: On 7 December CIFA soldiers carrying small arms and rifles and dressed in civilian clothes arrived on (Siete Joyas) Farm in San Vicente Department. They told the workers that they were FMLN members and immediately forced them to give them 5 colones each. The soldiers also stole the workers' shoes, clothes, and most of their food. They threatened many of the residents with the destruction of their baskets if they gave them nothing.

On 8 December at 1200, CIFA troops in civilian garb arrived in Piedra Grande Canton and captured three women whom they took around the canton, threatening all residents. The soldiers finally released the women at 1215 at (El Cumo) Canton, where they captured a young man.

Powerline Sabotaged

PA141234 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] In support of the campaign to demand justice, our militias sabotaged the electric powerline on the highway from Zacatecoluca to San Vicente. On 6 December, our militias blew up two powerline posts in the sector known as Muros de Sagrera. This act of sabotage left the enemy troops in San Vicente and Tecoluca in complete darkness.

We are urging all rural workers to continue demanding better wages from coffee, cotton, and sugarcane plantation owners.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA VICTORES RETURNS, RECEIVES RANK INSIGNIA

PA140450 [Editorial Report] Guatemala Domestic Service in Spanish at 0143 GMT on 14 December begins live coverage from La Aurora Airport in Guatemala City of the return of Guatemalan Head of State Oscar Mejia Victores from Argentina. Present at the airport to greet Mejia Victores are Acting Head of State Colonel Rodolfo Lobos Zamora, members of the military high command, the president of the supreme court, the president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, various cabinet ministers, the apostolic nuncio, various heads of diplomatic missions, and other officials.

The plane carrying the Guatemalan head of state lands, Mejia Victores disembarks at 0254 GMT, and he is greeted by a 21-gun salute and the playing of the Guatemalan national anthem.

At 0257 GMT, Army General Order for Officers No 26-83 of the National Defense Ministry, Guatemala City, dated 13 December 1983, is read, promoting Brigadier General Oscar Mejia Victores to the rank of division general.

After the reading of the order, Lobos Zamora speaks. He states that he is pleased to turn over the position he has been holding during the absence of Mejia Victores. He notes that there had been mention of a coup prior to Mejia Victores' departure for Argentina, and for that reason, the Army pledged allegiance to Mejia. Lobos Zamora goes on to note that all has been well during Mejia's absence. "In this manner, General Mejia Victores, the Guatemalan Army has rebuffed those who devoted themselves to sowing uneasiness before and after your successful mission to South America," he states. Lobos Zamora concludes by affirming the loyalty of the officers and soldiers of the Guatemalan Army to the head of state.

Following his remarks, Lobos Zamora and another officer present change the rank insignia of Mejia Victores from those of brigadier general to division general. After Mejia is greeted by various individuals present at the welcoming ceremony he is invited to review several military units present. Upon concluding the review, Mejia Victores leaves the main platform, and coverage of the event ends at 0346 GMT.

SALVADORAN EMBASSY DAMAGED BY BLAST

PA141226 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0515 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Several unidentified persons hurled a fragmentation grenade tonight against the Salvadoran Embassy in this capital. The blast claimed no victims, but did cause material damage.

The attack occurred at 1930 tonight (0130 GMT), moments before Guatemalan Chief of State General Oscar Mejia Victores returned to the country from Argentina and Miami.

Rafael Zaldivar, Salvadoran ambassador in Guatemala, confirmed to ACAN-EFE that no one was injured in the attack, but that the blast had damaged the front entrance of the embassy, which is located in the southern part of this capital.

Thus far no group has claimed credit for the attack, although the police believe it was staged by members of a guerrilla organization.

Group Claims Responsibility

PA142012 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0330 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] The Salvadoran Embassy in Guatemala was machinegunned at 1900 by several unidentified men, apparently in several vehicles. The embassy is located on Montufar Street and Fifth Avenue in Zone Nine. The terrorist attack caused only material damage to the embassy since the security agents were inside at the time.

According to one of the agents, the unidentified attackers sprayed the building with machinegun fire and then threw a fragmentation grenade into the yard. Several windows were destroyed when this device exploded. According to the security personnel, this action was so swift they had no chance to respond to the fire. This embassy was the object of an incendiary attack some time ago. No casualities resulted at that time.

The members of a clandestine faction phoned the media tonight to claim credit for this action, which was reportedly carried out in solidarity with the leftist guerrillas in El Salvador.

ORPA WARNS PEOPLE ON POSSIBLE ATTACKS

PA150223 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 83

[By Carlos Rodolfo Mobil]

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemalan guerrillas have warned the people to remain far away from military installations and other rebel targets so that they will not be effected by possible attacks. The Armed People's Revolutionary Organization (ORPA) one of the four guerrilla groups operating in Guatemala, released hundreds of leaflets in the past few hours containing this warning. In these leaflets, distributed to various media sources and in other places where people gather, ORPA implied that it will launch new attacks on security forces in the next few days.

This same group claimed responsibility for the attack that was launched against the Salvadoran Embassy in this capital last night. ORPA members hurled two fragmentation grenades at the Salvadoran diplomatic mission last night. There were reports of damage, but no victims. In their call to the media claiming responsibility for the attack, ORPA sources said: "Our groups successfully carried out an attack on the Salvadoran Embassy as a sign of support for our Salvadoran brothers." So far this month ORPA members have carried out two attacks in Guatemala City. On 7 December, they carried out simultaneous attacks on five police posts, killing one inspector and wounding six policemen.

The Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) yesterday claimed responsibility (according to a report disclosed in San Jose, Costa Rica) for an attack launched on Monday against a military convoy in Yaxilan, El Peten Department, in the country's northern region bordering Mexico. An FAR communique noted that they ambushed an entire Army company in El Peten on Monday and inflicted "many casualities." The FAR stressed that they "seized" 5 Galil rifles, 11 rifie grenades, hand grenades, 25 Galil ammunition clips with 35 rounds each, 10 50-round ammunition clips, 7 complete kits [not further specified], 2,111 rounds of 5.56-cal ammunition, a radio, and other equipment. The Guatemalan Army confirmed the ambush, but noted that "despite the surprise nature of the attack," the security personnel accompanying the convoy responded to the small arms fire opened by the guerrillas following an attack with Claymore mines. Military sources reported that the armed clash resulted in 25 rebels and 6 soldiers killed, and 14 soldiers wounded.

According to official reports, the undeclared war that Guatemala has been experiencing in 1983 claimed a total of 660 lives, including guerrillas, soldiers, and civilians. These figures, tallied up to November, contrast markedly with those supplied by various institutions, which note that the figure is more than 1,000.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT LETTER ANSWERS NICARAGUAN CHARGES

PA142030 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 13 Dec 83 p 4

[Report on press communique issued by the Honduran Government in Tegucigalpa on 12 December 1983 -- quotation marks as published]

[Text] "In a note sent by Acting Foreign Minister Arnulfo Pineda Lopez to his Nicaraguan counterpart, Miguel D'Escoto, today, the Honduran Government has rejected and condemned the charges raised by the Nicaraguan Government with regard to three air and naval incidents that took place 4-5 December in both the Atlantic and Pacific areas, supposedly in Nicaraguan territorial waters.

The Honduran protest letter stresses that "the reality of these regrettable incidents follows: On 15 December at 0750, at latitude 13 degrees, 25 minutes, 00 seconds north and longitude 87 degrees, 36 minutes, 00 seconds west, three Honduran naval force speedboats, which were on routine patrol duty, were heavily attacked by four units of the Sandinist war navy. A 2 and 1/2 hour battle ensued. It ended when two Honduran Air Force planes, which had been summoned as reinforcements intervened, forcing the foreign craft to head for their own territory."

Regarding the incidents involving the armed boats "Copesnica No 15 and No 20" the truth is as follows: On Sunday, 4 December, at 1405, the patrol boats "Honduras" and "Hibueras" which were on routine duty at the Banco de Cabo area, were informed that two unidentified boats were entering Honduran waters." "The intruding boats, the Honduran protest adds, were found at latitude 15 degrees, 03 minutes, 00 seconds north, longitude 83 degress, 08 minutes, 00 seconds west. Upon visual contact, it was determined that they were armed Nicaraguan fishing boats which immediately opened fire against the Honduran boats. Thus, an exchange of fire began, lasting over 1 hour. "As a result of this unjustifed attack, Lieutenant Junior Grade Juan Pablo Rodriguez, commander of the patrol boat "Honduras" and seaman Luis Gabriel Torres Vindel and Jorge Alberto Ayala Pineda were wounded. One of the attacking boats apparently remained adrift, while the other entered Nicaraguan waters, noticeably listing toward the port."

The Honduran acting foreign minister, lawyer Arnulfo Pineda Lopez, reasserts in his note to his Nicaraguan counterpart that "the Honduran naval and air units have in all cases acted in legitimate defense, in accordance with order issued following the constant violations of our national sovereignty by Nicaraguan craft and in the manner in which, in due time, I warned Your Excellency we would act."

"The Honduran Government -- the clarification and protest note ends by stating -- has always been well disposed toward cooperating in returning peace to Central America and it is toward this end that it conducts its foreign policy, based on the premise of mutual respect. Proof of this are the excellent relations Honduras maintains with other Central American countries, with which no incidents take place like those which, unfortunately, darken relations with Nicaragua, which your distinguished government is apparently inclined to provoke not only in Honduras."

PAZ BARNICA ON CONTADORA, MEETINGS WITH ORTEGA

PA142000 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Report by Mario Calix]

[Text] Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica returned to Tegucigalpa today from Argentina, where he attended the new Argentine president's inauguration. The foreign secretary said that the Contadora foreign ministers' meeting was postponed until 20-21 December in Panama and that the next meeting that will be attended by the Central American foreign ministers will be in mid-January.

[Begin Paz Barnica recording] It had been agreed that the Contadora meeting would be held on 14-15 December but the Panamian foreign minister called to tell me -- and he repeated this personally in Buenos Aires -- that the meeting would be held on 20-21 December. While still in the Argentine capital, the Contadora foreign ministers told me that the four of them would meet on 20-21 December and that the next multilateral plenary meeting of the nine foreign ministers would be held perhaps in mid-January. [end recording]

[In Buenos Aires, Paz Barnica also met with Commander Daniel Ortega, who expressed his interest in finding a solution to the regional situation through Contadora.

[Begin Paz Barnica recording] I had the chance to talk to them briefly at several of the receptions held on the occasion of President Alfonsin's inauguration. Commander Ortega asked me to convey a cordial greeting to President Roberto Suazo Cordova. He told me that they were well-inclined to contributing to a peaceful multilateral solution within the framework of the Contadora Group. I told them that Contadora had to be endorsed and that any unilateral initiative should be reviewed and negotiated within the framework of the Contadora Group's efforts in order to achieve a regional and global solution based on the democratization of those Central American countries where there is no democracy. However, this democracy, these democratic processes, must be verified internationally and free political organization and other aspects must be among the prerequisites. [end recording]

WEAPONS PRACTICE SAID TO RISK CIVILIAN LIVES

PA141237 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Residents of the village of Mulhuaca, jurisdiction of Lepaterique, Francisco Morazan Department, have charged that they face a daily danger from shooting practice which Honduran and U.S. soldiers carry out at a shooting range located at a place they pass. At times, the soldiers do not stop firing even though they see women and even children passing by.

The following is the text of their complaint: We make an appeal to His Excellency Roberto Suazo Cordova, constitutional president; to the Honduran Armed Forces commander; and to Government and Justice Minister Oscar Mejia Arellano. We, who are members of the council and part of the community of Mulhuaca village, Lepaterique, Francisco Morazan Department, wish to point out to you that Honduran and U.S. soldiers carry out shooting practice at a range that is located approximately half a kilometer from downtown Lepaterique. We wish to make it clear that at the place where they practice there is a road and a public walkway linking downtown Lepaterique with Mulhuaca, which belongs to that town and to Curaren Reitoca Municipality. We stress that all of us who pass by that area face constant danger, and that dozens of people have barely escaped being killed from the volleys these gentlemen fire. These Honduran and North American gentlemen seem to regard us as their enemies because they begin firing with their weapons even though they see us passing by. Sometimes even women and children have had to hit the ground to protect themselves and their children from the bullets. We wish to note that we are peace-loving people devoted to honest work. We also declare that we are not opposed to the Army or North Americans, but we do ask that our lives and human dignity be respected. We have pondered carefully before filing this complaint, and we are telling the truth.

Gentlemen, members of the national Army, you may rest assured that we are your rearguard, but we ask that our lives be respected.

NICARAGUA

INTERIOR MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON FPL DOCUMENT

PA150435 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry's Public Relations Office in Managua, 14 December 1983]

[Text] After learning of the communique issued by the Salvadoran Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, FPL, on 11 December 1983, regarding the murder of Companera Melida Anaya Montes and the suicide of Salvador Cayetano Carpio, the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry informs the Nicaraguan people of the following:

1. As was reported in our communique issued on 21 April 1983, the following Salvadoran persons were arrested and are being investigated:

a. Rogelio A. Bataglia Recinos, arrested 9 April, who confessed to having planned Commander Ana Maria's murder.

b. Walter Ernesto Elias, Andres Vasquez Molina, and Julio A. Sosa Orellana, arrested 12 April, who confessed to having committed the crime.

c. Alejandro Romero Romero and Maria Argueta Hernandez, arrested the day of the crime, who confessed to being accomplices in the murder.

2. All the persons involved in the crime were arrested between 6 April, the day the crime was committed, and 12 April. At that time they confessed to their involvement in the crime.

3. On 11 April, and during the investigations, Bataglia Recinos, besides admitting to having planned the crime, said that the crime had been ordered by Salvador Cayetano Carpio, who was his immediate superior and head of the FPL's political commission.

4. Carpio was informed of this incriminating statement on 12 April. Carpio arrived in Nicaragua on 9 April from Libya to attend Commander Ana Maria's funeral. When Carpio heard of the incriminating statement, he refused to comment. He did not deny or accept the statement, but withdrew into an absolute silence.

5. On that same day, at 2100, Carpio committed suicide in his home. He never denied the charges made by his subordinate, and the case remained opened.

6. All the information regarding this case was released to the FPL's political commission at their request, made through their representatives who visited Nicaragua to obtain facts that would shed light on the crime.

7. The FPL's official communique reporting on the examination of the facts made by the organization's leadership and their findings sheds new light on the case, and it will be added to the files of the arrested persons.

8. Once the investigation has been completed, the Interior Ministry will turn the guilty parties over to the courts for trial.

BORGE, WHEELOCK CITED ON AGRARIAN REFORM

PA141302 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 83

["Beyond the News Reports" feature: "The Revolution Fulfills Its Pledges"]

[Excerpts] During his closing speech at the first international meeting of nongovernmental organizations, Tomas Borge Martinez, commander of the revolution and interior minister, asserted that the Nicaraguan revolution is the most important qualifying step for the consolidation of a historic peace in Central America.

As Borge has said, peace means eliminating the causes for war, chief of which is exploitation and injustice. When there is justice in Central America, there will be no need for negotiations, because the causes for war will have been eliminated.

If the Nicaraguan revolution heightened tensions in Central America, it is because the archetypes of injustice want war. For them justice is a threat to their privileges.

Therefore, the elimination of the causes of war by the revolution -- injustice and exploitation -- contributes to building peace. This consists of eliminating those evils through the agrarian reform, literacy campaigns, health, labor, and all the untold efforts being made to set our people free from the ignorance and misery to which the Somozist dictatorship and imperialism had subjected them. This alone shows that the revolution fulfills its pledges, just as stated by Jaime Wheelock Roman, commander of the revolution and minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, on delivering approximately 100,000 manzanas of land to hundreds of peasants in Santo Domingo, Chontales Department.

These are facts, not mere words. So far this year the revolution has delivered 550,000 manzanas of land; that is, five times as much as Somozism allowed peasants to own in its entire tenure. This is the true secret of the revolution -- consideration for the poor, humble, and dispossessed.

GUATEMALAN ECONOMY MINISTER VIEWS TRADE

PA121634 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 83

[Text] Guatemalan Economy Minister Leonel Hernandez declared here that competitive industrial development at the Central American level had been the source of the economic crisis affecting the area. He made the statement before returning to Guatemala last weekend.

During his 48-hour visit to Nicaragua, Hernandez met with Government Junta member Sergio Ramirez Mercado and with Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca. The following is a brief recorded interview with the visiting minister.

[Begin recording] [Hernandez] We have an ample Central American inclination in Guatemala, and we want to strengthen our bonds with the other nations of the area. We have had a traditional exchange of trade with Nicaragua, but circumstances such as the present large debt which Nicaragua owes us have made it impossible for my country to continue trade activities. We are convinced, however, that dialogue will help us find the most favorable solutions so that the Central American integration process may be resumed.

[Unidentified reporter] Was the debt issue disucssed, and were any agreements reached?

[Hernandez] Well, the debt is a matter that concerns mainly the central banks. Thus, I do not have much to say. Nevertheless, we reviewed closely related matters, and on my return to Guatemala I will proceed to analyze these arguments and means to bolster trade with Nicaragua. [end recording]

ARDE HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN TEGUCIGALPA

PA140153 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1641 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Press conference held by Alexis Arguello and Miguel Urroz, members of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, at the La Ronda Hotel in Tegucigalpa -- live]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified speaker] Good day, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for coming to this press conference. We thank you on behalf of the Nicaraguan people, who today are fighting for their freedom. I want to introduce first, Gonzalo and Profesor, who are members of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces that operate in northern Nicaragua. They have come to lend moral support at this conference.

We have, to the champion's left, Miguel Urroz, [subsequently identified as "Julio Bigotes" by Alexis Arguello] who was a first lieutenant in the Sandinist People's Army before the treason of the nine commanders became evident. He felt compelled to abandon his position in order to join ARDE ranks as a Nicaraguan patriot. We also have Alexis Arguello, three time world boxing champion, who has joined ARDE, bringing his support, his moral fiber, his stamina as an athlete, who has been in the ring for 18 years securing honor for Central America and emphasizing brotherhood between peoples. Today he is a member of ARDE. He has just returned from the mountains of southern Nicaragua to be here with our Honduran brothers and explain to them, in his own words, what he does, and why. I leave you with them to raise your questions, so that it may be clear that ARDE is fighting to rescue the Nicaraguan revolution, and that it has fought against dictatorships of every kind, of every tendency, both leftist and rightist, because ARDE does not want the Nicaraguan people to be trampled upon or to have any dictatorship become enthroned in the land of Sandino and Ruben Dario.

[Arguello] Good morning. In the first place, on behalf of our commander, Eden Pastora Gomez, I want to send his warmest greetings and a fraternal embrace to the Honduran people. We are here representing our unit: ARDE. ARDE is represented by our leader, Eden Pastora, and we are, first and foremost, Nicaraguans, peasants and workers, who are in southern Nicaragua. For 2 days we have been, and more than ever before still are, integrated with the northern front, which is named after an ARDE fighter killed a few days ago.

Today we are beginning something very important: the north. The north will be difficult because the enemy, that red animal, has tremendous strength. However, we trust in God and in our peasants' ability to wage this very important struggle. At the same time, I wish to reiterate to the Honduran people my thanks for their hospitality. Any help that we might receive from the Honduran people will be very important. We do not want to cause any kind of problem for these friendly people. On the contrary, we wish to avoid future problems, such as the expansion of that communist monster that has shown great strength. We want to avoid having those nine persons try to create a military problem for Honduras in the future. ARDE wants to be here in the flesh.

At the same time, we want to tell you about an unofficial meeting that we, as Nicaraguans, attended yesterday with the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN. We met with its commander, Mr Bermudez [Enrique Bermudez, chief of the FDN General Staff], and Mr Fierro [pseudonym for Emilio Echaverri, FDN G-3]. It was a very important meeting. We indicated to them that we know that they share our desire. As Nicaraguans, we are fighting for something to which we have a right and which all Nicaraguans want: a free non-communist nation that is nationalistic above all else. They affirmed that they are fighting for the same thing. We reiterated that we are Nicaraguan brothers and that we are engaged in a difficult struggle. Yesterday we began a new and very important step: a personal rapprochement. They are interested because they are Nicaraguans, as we are, and this is a Nicaraguan struggle. We do not want this to go beyond our borders. We do not want to take the first steps, as I have said before, with the help of our Central American brothers, to be able to enter Nicaraguan territory in order to begin our struggle.

[Bigotes] People of Honduras, above all we wish to express our respect and gratitude for the support you have offered thus far to the various organizations fighting for the freedom of Central America.

We believe that it is necessary to begin activating the northern front, called the Zelaya Front. Our forces began fighting in the southern parts of Nicaragua on 1 May. They have advanced to such an extent that at this moment we have isolated Rio Escondido. This means that we are advancing from south to north in the eastern part of Nicaragua. We are encircling the entire eastern area, Zelaya Department.

This forces us to seek support from this side so that we may continue advancing, linking and marching toward the Pacific.

ARDE began fighting on 1 May with 300 men. Today we have 7,000 men, of which 2,000 are unarmed. At this time, we don't have a single man involved in military activities outside our borders. We entered the country and will remain there. We will either win or die.

[Unidenfified ABC correspondent] I have a question for Júlio Bigotes. I would like to know your nationality. Would you also please specify how Honduran territory will be used for your activities? Mr. Arguello said: We want help from Central America to enter our national territory. Yet you say that you are already inside Nicaragua, and will only use Honduras as a door through which you can inform the world of your activities. Therefore, my question is: Will the northern Zelaya Front have members in Honduras? Where will they be stationed and how will Honduran territory be used for your activities?

[Bigotes] We appreciate your questions. I am a Nicaraguan, 100 percent Nicaraguan. If you detect a slight accent, it is because during the past war in Nicaragua, I was a member of the FSLN General Staff, and one of my many activities included working as a professional announcer for 5 years. I was the official announcer for the Voice of Sandino during the first 9 months. Voice training can be compared to education at a military academy; there are those who are no longer cadets because they have already been trained.

Regarding the use of Honduran territory, if allowed, it would be used to divulge our activities and to seek support. As I said, our soldiers are peasants. Many years ago, El Salvador experienced a peasant uprising. However, I believe that the peasant uprising being experienced at this moment in Nicaragua is much greater if we view it on a percentage basis. This is because 99 percent of ARDE's members are peasants.

[Trinidad Murillo] A few moments ago a member of ARDE said that it is receiving help through a private initiative. However, in the eastern areas of Honduras where groups of Somozists are supposedly fighting, it is said that there are ideological and political differences among those fighting groups. There have been serious differences between Pastora and Robelo. There have been also been differences between the groups fighting in this area because they are commanded by former members of Anastasio Somoza's police corps. How can an anti-Sandinist revolution win a battle where there are ideological and political differences? Have you already met to solve these differences and fight as a united group?

[Unidentified speaker] Our political commissions are working hard with regard to unity. Logically, there have to be some ideological differences, but we are reaching a point of convergence. I believe this is natural, and I am pleased. Regarding ARDE's internal matters, I would compare this to a tree that has been shaken to release little dry leaves, to release those little objects that are just living off the tree and doing nothing for it. For ARDE the shake-up was very healthy. Following the shake-up an assembly was created in which all the sectors are represented. The members of the assembly will be responsible for passing legislation. The assembly was one of the good things born from those differences. Today, all Nicaraguan movements are much healthier because of this. If I have not been too clear, please let me know.

[Unidentified reporter] What is your opinion of the FDN, and how would you characterize your relations with that organization?

[Arguello] The best reason to maintain relations is that we are all Nicaraguans, as our Companero Julio just mentioned.

The only difference is that there are two or three instances, which you have seen on Sandinist television, showing some pilots who bombed the population during the time of Somoza and all the atrocities committed by the National Guard. Those things are engraved in the minds of many Nicaraguans. However, regarding some of those elements, we cannot deny that they are Nicaraguans. Perhaps, politically, they should step aside and make that sacrifice for the cause in order not to give the people more cause for anxiety.

[Unidentified reporter] How many men are there in northern Zelaya Department? What type of arms do they have and what are their immediate objectives?

[Arguello] Our objective is to overthrow the dictatorship in the near future. First, we must organize ourselves. With the units we have, we believe we will have our first armed clashes in 30 days.

[Unidentified reporter] How many men do you have on the northern front?

[Bigotes] We only have about four persons on the northern front. However, on the southern front, we had 300 on 1 May, and at this moment, we have 7,000 people.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Bigotes] No, but we have machetes and sticks. It is important for you to realize that we are not waging a war against the garrisons. No, we are sending two or three men to harass troops that can number as many as 150 men. These three men can make life impossible for the enemy. They fire a couple of shots and hide in the bushes. That is guerrilla warfare. I would like to make an explanation from the military viewpoint. We believe that our main tactic is to lay siege to the enemy -- psychological siege. Another advantage we have is the fact that we are using men from the region who know every inch of the territory like the palms of their hands. We have set up a logistics organization which, through persons of international prestige, is sending us help.

[Unidentified reporter] A few days ago Commander Steadman Fagoth Muller said at a news conference here in Tegucigalpa that Commander Eden Pastora Gomez was a Sandinist fifth column. What is your opinion regarding this?

[Bigotes] I think that Steadman Fagoth Muller was a little impulsive when he made this statement. We would like him to reconsider what he said. Our struggle is not between Pastora and Fagoth. It is against a common enemy: The Russian bear, which is attacking our country today.

[Alejandro Casco] Commander Cero once said that he would never form an alliance with his father's murderers. He used to blame the FDN, whose members, in the past, were Anastasio Somoza's collaborators. My question: Why this recent change?

[Arguello] Commander Eden Pastora would have to answer that question. However, based on our long relationship with him -- and we have worked closely with him -- the FDN did not kill his father; the Somoza dictatorship killed him. Naturally, he resents some individuals. However, Commander Pastora demonstrates his patriotism by accepting even those who killed his father so that Nicaragua may be free.

[Announcer] We thus end this press conference offered by the representatives of ARDE. The main figure has been three-time world boxing champion Alexis Arguello. For Honduran HRN, the following reporters have participated: Roy Arthur Leylor, Marco Tulio Garay, Armando Zelaya, Jr., and Ludovico Sanchez, audio was by Victor Manuel Mairena.

FSDC, ARDE MEMBER VIEWS RECENT DECREES

PA141608 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Statement by Jose Davila Membreno, president of the Christian Democratic Solidarity Front, FSDC, and member of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Revolutionary Directorate -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Desperate over the situation it faces, the FSLN has recently issued three decrees aimed at presenting an alleged opening to solve the Nicaraguan political problem. To explain clearly what is intended by the FSLN, each of these decrees must be analyzed to understand the Managua totalitarian government's motives.

Desperate because their totalitarian model has not been accepted by the Nicaraguan people and because the increasing political, economic, and social problems attest to the fact that the FSLN is incapable of solving the problems of the Nicaraguan people, it has now launched, for export purposes, a series of measures to make other countries and nations, especially the European countries and the United States, believe that the totalitarian government is willing to initiate a democratic opening.

The first decree offers amnesty to the Miskito Indians, the second speaks of the electoral period during which the call to elections will be made on 21 February 1984; and the third speaks of the return to the country of people they describe as counter-revolutionaries, who are the patriots fighting to rescue the Nicaraguan revolution.

First of all, let us discuss the decree granting amnesty to the Miskitos. We would like to point out, before all else, that the decree does not even use the word amnesty, which clearly demonstrates that the FSLN's real intention is to give a false impression, to lie to the people who they believe still give credibility to a regime that is increasingly losing prestige.

The only positive aspect of this decree is that the Sandinist Front, the FSLN's totalitarian directorate, has finally admitted the internal problem in Nicaragua. It realizes that the real problem is not the CIA, Somozism, imperialism, etc., as they have claimed, but is a problem of the Nicaraguan population, of the Nicaraguan people, of the need for elections so the people can choose their own leaders. For the first time, the FSLN, overwhelmed by international criticism, has dared to admit that there is an internal problem, demonstrating this admission through these measures.

Let us now analyze the amnesty for the Miskitos. Why hasn't the FSLN said anything about an indemnization for the Miskitos? A total of 32 villages in which our Indian companeros lived were burned and sacked. Why doesn't the FSLN indemnify them for damage caused as the FSLN government is doing for the ethnic communities on the Atlantic coast, so that they may trust in their alleged amnesty? What has the FSLN done about giving land back to the Indian communities so that they may now believe in this decree? If they are truly interested in solving the problem of the Miskitos, they should give them back their land, they should respect their traditions, and they should authorize the return of all the Moravian pastors who were expelled by the totalitarian regime. They don't say a word about these things, because this is a trap for the Miskitos.

Let us now analyze the decree on elections. Four years after the victory over the Somozist dictatorship, the FSLN coolly announces that there will be elections. These men are forgetting their promise to the OAS that elections would take place as soon as possible. Now, when they believe they have totalitarian control over the population, when they have an Army at the service of the party -- which is also subjugated -- when they have organized the hordes who act in favor of their government party, they talk about elections.

There are no legal bases for free elections. There are no conditions for the free participation of all political parties. The law on political parties was approved, but the law has only institutionalized the FSLN's party. Finally, they have not yet specified what kind of elections will be held. They have ridiculously tried to fool other countries by saying they are studying various electoral systems, but they have not specified what kind of elections will be held, whether they will be presidential, congressional, or municipal elections. This is part of the FSLN's trick.

Now let us look at the FSLN's decree on the return of all Nicaraguan patriots who are fighting to rescue the revolution. Who will guarantee them that they will not experience the same situation as thousands of Nicaraguans who have died after being tortured in jail? Now the FSLN even offers land and guarantees. They are acting just like Somoza, who 1 year before his downfall made similar promises. The FSLN pompously announced in its decree that those who wish to return to Nicaragua have until 21 February to do so. In addition, it flamboyantly announced that on 21 February 1984 a call for elections will be made. What does this mean? It means that whoever returns to Nicaragua will do so with uncertainty, since the FSLN will not call for elections until 21 February. However, if any Nicaraguan who returns is not satisfied with the elections or with the announcements to be made on 21 February 1984, it will be too late, as he will be already a prisoner in Nicaragua.

If the FSLN was really interested in solving the Nicaraguan problems in depth, if it were not only interested in these deceitful and tricky measures, what it would do first would be to stop boycotting the Contadora Group. It would have to sign a peace treaty for Nicaragua and the region with the Contadora Group. If they really wanted to solve the Nicaraguan problems, they would call for elections to be held before June 1984. If the Sandinist Front was really interested in solving Nicaragua's problems, it would separate the Army from the party, as at this time -- according to Marxist principles -- they are both the same. If the FSLN really wanted to solve Nicaragua's problems, all political prisoners would be freed, press censorship would be eliminated, repression of students and persecution of the Catholic Church would cease, and the vendors in the markets and grocery stores would have more freedom to do their work. Anyone who wished to express his political stance on Nicaragua's problems would be free to do so. However, the Sandinist Front does not want to solve Nicaragua's problems.

Therefore, Nicaraguan people, we must conclude that these measures announced by the FSLN are the same as those announced by Somoza in 1978. They were too superficial and came too late.

ARDE rejects the measures announced by the FSLN and tells the Nicaraguan people that ARDE will continue its struggle until the Nicaraguan revolution is rescued from the traitors' hands. Onward Nicaraguan people in this struggle! ARDE continues to move forward and nobody will stop us!

MISURASATA-SICC STATEMENT ON AMNESTY DECREE

PA142330 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Statement by Brooklyn Rivera, representative of the Miskito, Sumu, Rama Sandinist Unity, Southern Indigenous Creole Communities, MISURASATA-SICC, and member of the Revolutionary Directorate of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] During more than 4 years of totalitarian government by the FSLN in Nicaragua, the Indian people and other low-income sectors of the population have suffered the tragedy of this policy state. As a result, they have been subjected to a process of systematic extermination.

In other words, our brothers have been profusely bleeding because of this practice of physical genocide and cultural [word indistinct] at the hands of the repressive FSLN forces.

For Indians, this has been a long night of terror, implemented through the massacres, persecutions, arrests, torture, and massive destruction carried out by the regime. Nevertheless, our brothers, who have had a long tradition of struggle for survival and greedom, have again demonstrated their unbending resistence to the threat of neo-colonial slavery. Therefore, they have not surrendered to the FSLN, despite the atrocities and [word indistinct] they have had to face.

Therefore, it is evident that this law is an achievement that has been made possible through the heroic struggle of the Indians themselves and not as the regime has described it: a concession, or a gesture of good will on the part of the Sandinist front.

Logically, this accomplishment is a ferocious blow to the structures of the racist and dogmatic policy of pseudo-Sandinism. Therefore, in view of this law, we ask ourselves: Amnesty for what, since their [word indistinct] policy of extermination and massive destruction was precisely against our defenseless brothers.

Then, was this amnesty decree a decision to pardon themselves for their despotism against the Indians?

We are also compelled to believe that these measures adopted by the FSLN are an attempt to please its friends abroad; in other words, just another step in its propaganda campaign with the Socialist International, by changing the external facade, and not the internal aspects of the situation.

We believe that the action in itself, that is, extending amnesty to Indian prisoners, is a positive step by the regime, but at the same time, we demand that the Sandinist front take other similar steps immediately in order to demonstrate its political willingness to solve the problems and make amends for the injustices it has committed against the Indians since the triumph of the revolution. The following are some of the initial steps we demand:

1. An immediate end to the murders in the Atlantic region;

2. An end to the policy of causing hunger among the Indians -- in other words, Indians should be free to work their land;

3. The affording of an opportunity to representatives of the media, [words indistinct] and humanitarian organizations to visit the Indian region;

4. An end to the [word indistinct] policy in the Tasba Pri and other camps;

5. Recognition of the MISURASATA-SICC as the sole and legitimate representative organization of the Indians;

6. A decision to hold talks with the authentic Indian leaders on the subject of the Atlantic Coast territory and autonomy.

We reiterate our willingness to seek peaceful but dignified and concrete solutions to the problems and struggle of the Indians. We are open to political solutions, but have as our ultimate goal the dignified and authentic liberation of our peoples.

We reaffirm that the struggle of our brothers against the FSLN's aggressive forces will continue to develop and intensify within our territory until we have won our freedom and dignity.

ARDE ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON C.A., NEGOTIATIONS

PA150330 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino to Nicaragua in Spanish 0600 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity, Southern Indigenous Creole Communities, MISUKASATA-SICC, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, MDN; the Sandino Revolutionary Front, FRS; and the Christian Democratic Solidarity Front, FSDC, "to the Nicaraguan people and all democratic peoples and governments," in "Central America," dated "December, 1983"]

[Text] Considering the circumstances of extreme oppression that the Nicaraguan people are living through, and that have forced broad national sectors to rise up in arms and struggle in an uncompromising manner to liberate Nicaragua, the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, announces its position regarding the efforts to find a solution to the problem in Central America and Nicaragua, and regarding eventual bilateral negotiations:

1. A Central American solution that does not contemplate the democratization of Nicaragua would be incomplete and would not guarantee peace.

2. The critical situation of the totalitarian regime, as a result of its treason, is evident. The regime has not fulfilled the pledges made in the original government plans. The drama that our people are living through is being generated basically by internal factors. A new military dictatorship represses and oppresses all the people who fought for the true liberation.

3. The FSLN's totalitarian regime's lack of credibility and its permanent deception make any proposal which they make suspicious. No agreements can be negotiated with them without adequate guarantees, nor can amnesty and safe conduct decrees be accepted without an effective enforcement of basic liberties and human rights.

4. We are sure that any negotiations or signing of agreements between the FSLN government and any other government will not be fulfilled by the FSLN. They only seek favorable conditions to extend their Marxist-Leninist plan to the rest of the area.

5. ARDE will not accept any agreement or compromise. Any stable political solution in Nicaragua will have to be implemented before the people and be based on firm, democratic principles for Nicaragua. For this, all opposing forces will have to be taken into account, including the FSLN's democratic [as heard] sector.

6. ARDE cannot give up its struggle. ARDE will fight unceasingly in its patriotic effort until we achieve the democratic rescue of our revolution. Without democracy, freedom, and domestic peace in Nicaragua, there will not be peace in Central America. Without totalitarianism, or a return to the past! -- ARDE Revolutionary Directorate

[Dated] Central America, December 1983 -- [Signed] Jose Davila M. from the FSDC; Alfonso Robelo Callejas, from the MDN; Eden Pastora, from the FRS; and Brooklyn Rivera, from the MISURASATA-SICC.

ARDE REPORTS ATTACKS ON SANDINIST SOLDIERS

PA141236 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2347 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] San Jose, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, sources have reported that in the past few days ARDE forces have inflicted serious casualties on the Sandinist People's Army, EPS.

In a communique broadcast in this capital city, ARDE states that its forces inflicted 30 casualties on the EPS when its Ramon Raudales squad ambushed a Sandinist platoon in the area of Nueva Guinea, southern Nicaragua. ARDE reported that its forces suffered one casualty. According to the counterrevolutionaries, the Juan Pablo Umanzor Column attacked the "Bluefields" express boat in which 170 Sandinist soldiers were traveling. ARDE spokesmen stated that all the passengers on the ship were killed during this action, which was described "another hard blow on the pro-Soviet Army."

EPS CLAIMS 25 COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES KILLED

PA141312 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] A total of 25 counterrevolutionaries have been killed in recent clashes with troops of the Sandinist Peoples Army in various zones of the country, the Defense Ministry has reported.

From 9 to 11 December there were armed clashes in Cano, Boca de Piedra, El Salto, El Macho, and El Almendro in the region of Nuevo Guinea, 250 km southeast of Managua.

In Cano and Boca de Piedra the counterrevolutionaries suffered eight dead, and in El Almendro four more dead and wounded, the same source indicated. In Zinica, Matagalpa Department, 127 km north of Managua, the former Somozist Guardsmen suffered 3 dead. In Wilili, Jinotega Department, 170 km north of this capital, 10 were killed. The Sandinist Peoples Army lost only one man in these clashes.

HAVANA CITES ORTEGA REMARKS IN ARGENTINA

PA141539 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, has said that Nicaragua's military power lies in its people's determination to defend their homeland. Ortega held a news conference in Buenos Aires, where he attended Argentine President Raul Alfonsin's inauguration on Saturday.

We are prepared to fight against the military invasion that the United States is organizing with the support of mercenaries installed on Nicaragua's borders, Ortega added. Nevertheless, he said, we want peace, and that is why international solidarity is important to prevent a war.

The Sandinist leader said there is a real possibility that the Ronald Reagan government will involve its own troops in a direct attack on Nicaragua. He denounced the concentration of U.S. soldiers in Honduras, the deployment of ships and planes to the region, the construction of runways and airports, and the aid to the counterrevolutionaries. Asked about possible Latin American aid to Nicaragua in case of an invasion, Daniel Ortega clarified that the nation's physical and military defense lies with Nicaraguans. But, he said, international support is needed. After stating that there is no imposed foreign intervention in Nicaragua, he stressed that the United States has repeatedly attacked and oppressed the Nicaraguan people.

Daniel Ortega emphasized that the Contadora Group initiative lays the foundations for detente in Central America. Everything now depends on the United States, which is increasing military pressure on Nicaragua, ignores international public opinion, and underestimates the response of the United Nations, Ortega said.

POLISH YOUTH GROUP MEETS CASTRO, CONCLUDES VISIT

FL141139 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] At the Palace of the Revolution, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of Cuba's Communist Party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, met last night with the 149 members of the Carlos Roloff Youth brigade which is visiting our country at the invitation of the top leader of the revolution. Present at the meeting were Politburo members and alternate members and members of the party Secretariat and Central Committee.

Besides Fidel, the youths shook hands with Division General Senen Casas, president of the Cuban-Polish Friendship Association, and Rene Rodriguez, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples.

The Cuban chief of state chatted extensively with the members of the brigade and showed interest in the places visited by them in the interior of the country and what had developed during their stay. He also inquired about the Polish cattle industry and agriculture, the work of the explorers organization, and explained to them the humanization efforts made by the revolution in the work in the Cuban countryside.

The Polish youth brigade members will conclude their 1-month stay in the country today and depart for their homeland this afternoon.

SRV ECONOMIC, HEALTH DELEGATIONS VISIT

Economic Delegation Arrives

OW141615 Hanoi VNA in English 1549 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Hanoi, VNA Dec. 14 -- A Vietnamese governmental economic delegation on December 12 arrived in Havana to attend the seventh session of the Vietnam-Cuba Intergovernmantal Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. The delegation is led by Tran Quynh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, and president of the Vietnamese section of the said commission.

It was welcomed at the airport by Joel Domenech Benitez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, and president of the Cuban section of the commission; Faure Chomon Mediavilla, Cuban ambassador to Vietnam; Manuel Torres, vice-chairman of the State Committee for Economic Collaboration and vice-president of the Cuban section of the commission; and others.

Health Group Ends Visit

OW142143 Hanoi VNA in English 1539 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Hanoi, VNA Dec 14 -- A delegation of the Vietnamese Public Health Ministry led by its minister, Prof. Dr. Dang Hoi Xuan, paid an official friendship visit to Cuba from December 8-13.

Earlier, the delegation had attended two international conferences in Havana, i.e. the 24th conference of the ministers of public health of socialist countries (Dec 1-4) and the 14th conference of the permanant commission for public health of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Dec 5-7).

During its visit, the delegation was cordially received by Sergio del Valle Jimenez, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and minister of public health.

The delegation later had working sessions with other leading officials of the host ministry. The two sides exchanged experiences in medicine and pharamacology and discussed measures to strengthen cooperation, especially in the study of tropical diseases and traditional medicine.

SRV EXPORT COMMODITIES EXHIBIT OPENS IN CUBA

OW150851 Hanoi VNA in English 0805 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 15 -- An exhibition of Vietnam's commodities for export was opened in Havana Tuesday by the Cuban Chamber of Commerce (CCC). The opening ceremony was attended by Hoang Trong Dai, Vietnamese vice minister for foreign trade and president of the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce, and Jose Diaz Mirabel, president of the CCC. The exhibition displays samples of Vietnam's commodities exported to Cuba in recent years such as bicycles, table fans articles.

MONTANE IN MADRID, PEREZ HERRERO IN LISBON

FL141224 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat and alternate member of the Politburo, has arrived in Madrid accompanied by a delegation to participate as guests in the 11th Congress of the Spanish Communist Party.

Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the party Politburo, has arrived in Lisbon heading a Cuban delegation to the 10th Congress of the Portuguese Communist Party. The Portuguese Communist Party was the principal political force which opposed Salazar's fascist regime, and has great influence and prestige in the labor movement, the agrarian reform area, and other Portuguese sectors.

RODRIGUEZ SPEAKS AT LIVESTOCK CONFERENCE

FL150152 Havana Televison Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today spoke at the conclusion of the Fourth National Conference of the Cuban Livestock Production Association [Associacion Cubana de Produccion Animal], which had been meeting for 3 days at the Cuban Academy of Sciences headquarters, with about 500 delegates and guests in attendance.

OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS

AU131903 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 9 Dec 83 p 6

[Interview with Jose Felipe Carneado, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and head of its Education, Culture, and Science Department, by Zdislaw Antos during his recent visit to Poland; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Antos] I understand that you are also concerned with church-state relations. Could I ask you to describe them?

[Carneado] There are no closed churches in Cuba and there are no restrictions on religious activities. The Constitution guarantees freedom of religion. Aside from the Roman Catholic Church, which is our largest religious institution, there are about 40 Protestant sects, as well as orders that are connected with Catholicism. They are the result of the enforced import of African slaves to Cuba in the past. Cuba maintains diplomatic relations with the Vatican and has been doing so without break since 1934. World and Latin American theological conferences also take place in Cuba.

The Catholic Church, just as the Protestant church, expresses its opinions on the nation's vital issues and shows respect for the policies of the authorities and the achievements of the revolution. It condemned, for example the U.S. economic blockade on Cuba and has recently expressed solidarity with the families of those who were killed on Grenada.

The party and the Cuban Government, for their part, work on the assumption that there are no contradictions between real Christianity and the goals of the social revolution. By confirming our respect for religious feelings, we are striving to consolidate cooperation between believers and non-believers for the construction of a more just society. These ideas are taking root in Latin America, where many clergymen and lay Catholic activists realize that the fight for justice on this earth demands a change from the obsolete socioeconomic structures.

[Antos] What was the purpose of your visit to Poland?

[Carneado] It was to exchange experiences and to further intensify Polish-Cuban cooperation. I had meetings at the PZPR Central Committee Culture Department and the Office for Religious Affairs, as well as with socioreligious associations. Please say in your paper that we have a great deal of respect for and much goodwill in Cuba toward Poland.

PRESIDENT LAUDS REAGAN, PRIVATE SECTOR ON CBI

FL141603 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 3 Dec 83 p 8

[Speech by President Salvador Jorge Blanco when receiving the credential that accredits the Dominican Republic as a Caribbean Basin Initiative country, at Government House in Santo Domingo on 2 December]

[Text] This meeting is of great significance for our government and for the Dominican Republic. Regarding the government, this significance stems from the fact that we are one of the first governments within the Caribbean Basin to implement this plan, which has the intention of contributing to the region's development. It also has another meaning for the government: As soon as this idea was launched, I and other officials had the courage to help give it a framework and make it receptive. We visited the United States, especially Washington and Miami, on various occasions to defend the plan that had been conceived by President Reagan and which today, with the credential that I have just received, will be implemented in the Dominican Republic.

But it also has a very important meaning for the Dominican people, because it will help us reduce the economic difficulties that we are experiencing today difficulties that care also being experienced by other countries on this continent.

Because the market that exists in the United States -- free of former obstacles, whether they are called contributions or tariffs -- will place us, the Dominicans, in a position in which our products will be more favorably received in the United States, leading to an increase in our imports and reaping benefits from these exports.

As you have said, Mr Rostenkowski, as of today the political phase is behind us. Today we are entering another phase: the economic phase, and this is the challenge that the republic has taken up. It faces this challenge fully united. The presence here at this meeting of important representatives of the commercial and industrial sectors of the Dominican Republic, together with the government of national consolidation as a whole, is a demonstration of the total agreement that exists between the public and private sectors regarding the benefits that will derive from President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative [CBI] plan.

We congratulate you, Mr Rostenkowski, who came here 1 year ago as a messenger for the plan. Admittedly, you had serious doubts regarding some of the things that have been achieved, but after meeting with us and other government officials, you returned to Washington, undoubtedly contributing to shortening the time for the arrival of this day that is now being celebrated.

We also congratulate the representatives of Chicago's Chamber of Commerce and Industry who are accompanying you. It is an eloquent demonstration of how the private sector of the United States has supported and become enthusiastic with the CBI, and this has also demonstrated that the original resistance that sprung up in the United States against the Reagan plan has now been overcome.

We also congratulate President Reagan for his tenacious desire to implement this plan, which, at times, encountered obstacles in Congress, but today has become a reality.

We hope that you will once again enjoy the hospitality and courtesy that the Dominican people give to such distinguished visitors. Thank you very much.

Santo Domingo, D.N. [National District]

2 December 1983

Paper Urges Productivity

FL141719 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 3 Dec 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Reagan's Plan"]

[Text] During the course of an interesting official ceremony yesterday at Government House, President Salvador Jorge Blanco received from the Illinois congressman, Mr Dan Rostenkowski, the credential that accredits our country as a member of the Caribbean Basin Initiative [CBI]. Thus, we became one of the first countries to receive this credential.

Congressman Rostenkowski categorically asserted: "The political victory is behind us. The economic challenge is now before us." Today marks the beginning of a new phase of the President's CBI. According to a U.S. saying, the next few days will determine the CBI's outcome.

President Salvador Jorge Blanco asserted that "with the market that exists in the United States -- free of former obstacles, whether they are called contributions or tariffs," many of our traditional and non-traditional products "will be more favorably received in the United States," thanks to the CBI. And he added that the export of national products will increase, thus improving the country's benefits.

We consider that this credential is a great challenge for the Dominican people's productive capabilities and for the authorities of the Dominican Government in efficiently managing this opportunity that has been given us.

The elimination of certain obstacles offers the possibility of massively increasing the export volume of the articles that we can produce in competition with other countries that have been granted the same benefits.

It is now necessary that party politics should not interfere with the creative activities of the commercial and industrial sectors in their export programs, and it is also necessary that the government be the only manager of this mechanism for national recovery.

The Dominican Republic, which is geographically close to the United States, now has a great opportunity before it. It must not be lost. With all of us united in a common effort we can achieve the goal for the benefit of the Dominican people.

DOMINICA

U.S. MILITARY TRAINING LOCAL POLICE FORCE

FL141801 Bridgetown CANA in English 1721 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Dec 14 (CANA) -- An eight-man U.S. military team is now on a six-weeks assignment in Dominica exposing the police force here "to additional specialized training," the Government Information Services (GIS) said today.

GIS said Dominica would early in the new year take delivery of a 64-foot coast guard vessel to upgrade the Coast Guard Service. The vessel will be accompanied by a three-man U.S. team and is being given to the Dominica Government under the United States Military Assistance Programme.

Dominica is a participant in a joint Eastern Caribbean Defence Pact that also involves Barbados, St Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, and St Vincent and the Grenadines. Except for Barbados, the other territories are now developing their coast guard services.

Meanwhile, Dominica said today that it was considering giving technical assistance to Grenada in the aftermath of last October's bloody strife there. The government statement quoted Attorney General Ronan David as saying that such assistance will be "in the field of training for Grenada's police force. Dominica, which was one of the islands that participated in the October 25 U.S.-led military intervention in Grenada to restore order after an Army coup, has its own police training facilities.

GRENADA

CUBAN CHARGE SAYS MISSION'S FUTURE UNDECIDED

FL142330 Bridgetown CANA in English 2255 GMT 14 Dec 83

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 14 (CANA) -- Cuba is still undecided about the future of its mission here and of relations with Grenada in general, the last remaining Cuban diplomat in St George's said today.

"...There is no official position...but in one of the statements of President Fidel Castro on the future of relations (between Cuba and Grenada), he mentioned that we were not interested in any relations with a puppet government of the United States of America," said Charge d'Affaires Gaston Diaz. "That is what is here now and probably (what) will be in the near future. So it is as short as that and as clear as that," he said in an interview with the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA).

Cuba became Grenada's closest ally in the English-speaking [as received] Caribbean during the four-and-a-half year rule of the left-wing People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), which was ousted in a bloody October 19 military coup. Following the U.S.-led military intervention six days later, Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon downgraded diplomatic relations with Havana and expelled ambassador Julian Torres Rizo and all other Cuban officials except Diaz.

Diaz said Cuban relations with the new Grenada interim government were "just informal" and there was "not any content." He has declined to comment on whether Cuba proposed eventually to end relations with Grenada in view of the changes here. "That (decision) will fall on the (basis) of subjective analysis. I can't say what we are going to do," the Cuban charge d'affaires said.

Chairman of the interim government, Nicholas Brathwaite, told CANA earlier this week that Grenada had no plans at present for breaking off relations with Cuba, although moves were afoot to eventually close the Grenada diplomatic mission in Havana. He said the interim government wanted relations between the two countries to continue at non-residential ambassadorial level.

Equipment, Airplane Claims

FL150038 Bridgetown CANA in English 2355 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 14 (CANA) -- Cuba's charge d'affaires here today denied that Havana was insisting that Cubans be allowed to oversee the return to Cuba of construction equipment and an aircraft damaged during the October U.S.-led military invasion.

Gaston Diaz, the only remaining Cuban diplomat, told CANA Havana had not, at any time, informed the new Grenada Government how it wanted to see the equipment and the Air Cubana airliner leave Grenada. "We have not really been sitting down (to) discuss how they (the equipment and the plane) should be resolved, so I don't know why they can go ahead and put positions that are not positions agreed between the two parties," he said.

Diaz was responding to statements by Nicholas Brathwaite, the chairman of Grenada's interim government, that the hold-up over the two issues stemmed from Havana's insistence that Cubans be allowed into Grenada to oversee the return of the equipment and the aircraft. Brathwaite also said the new authorities in Grenada were prepared to allow Cuba to have back its equipment and plane but it would prefer the arrangement to be made through a mutually acceptable third country.

The equipment includes trucks, bulldozers, cranes, electric generators, stone crushers, and asphalt plants used to help the ousted People's Revolutionary Government build a multi-million-dollar international airport in the south of the country.

Diaz, serving as the Cuban charge d'affaires after Ambassador Julian Rizo was declared persona non grata by Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon, said that no third party position was put forward to Havana by the new Grenada Government. He questioned the position of the Grenada Government over the third party question, stating that his presence on the island was primarily to deal with Havana's interests, since he was the accredited Cuban representative in the country.

"The fact of the matter is that it is now more than a month since we have made the official requests of the two things and we are going to finish the year and nothing has been implemented," he said. "The indications they (the interim administration) are giving to us is that there is no problem, as we say in the Caribbean, and it can be resolved. But no concrete steps have been taken to say that there is no problem," Diaz said.

The diplomat said Havana had already provided the Grenada Government with a list concerning the specific equipment that Cuba wanted returned. However, he conceded that it could be a difficult job for the Grenadian authorities to locate all the equipment, since the Americans had been using it and had destroyed most of it.

On the question of Cuba possibly seeking compensation for any equipment lost or damaged, he said somebody would most likely have to account for it but it was too early to say whether Havana would be seeking compensation.

GAIRY, MICHAEL SYLVESTER COMMENT ON ELECTIONS

FL142218 Bridgetown CANA in English 2200 GMT 14 Dec 83

[By Lennox King]

[Text] New York, Dec 14 (CANA) -- Former Grenada Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy said today he would like general elections to be held in Grenada by next March.

Sir Eric, who now lives in Washington, said in a telephone interview that Grenadians had not been given the opportunity to vote since he was ousted in a coup by Maurice Bishop's New Jewel Movement in March 1979. He said the Bishop government was imposed on the people and now an interim administration that had not been elected is running the island.

Sir Eric did not say when he plans to return to Grenada but sources close to him said it may be within the next two weeks. Sir Eric's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) won the island's last poll in 1976.

The Grenada Advisory Council was appointed after the U.S.-led invasion last October which removed a short-lived military junta that had gained power in a coup killing Bishop. It has promised to hold elections after May, next year.

Grenada-born Michael Sylvester of the emigre Grenada Democratic Movement told CANA he will lead a team of candidates to take part in Grenada's next elections. Sylvester, a professor of law at New York's Pace University, said his party was pro-Western.

"We have consistently taken the position that democracy and freedom are accoutrements of a Western-style government. We are pro-democracy, pro-American, pro-freedom. We believe in the marketplace as an economic principle... we are (to the) right, but I prefer to say conservative," Sylvester said.

Referring to the invasion, he said "Grenadians have been saved from a really tragic situation which had been developing... we can all fall on our knees and thank God and thank Preident Ronald Reagan and the people of the United States for the support given the rescue operation."

Political Party Launched

FL141619 Bridgetown CANA in English 1505 GMT 14 Dec 83

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 14 (CANA) -- U.S.-based Grenadian Mark Isaac, 34, has announced plans here to launch a political party within the next week, in preparation for general elections expected in the latter half of next year. Isaac, an unknown in political circles in Grenada, said his Grenada Unification Party (GUP) would be democratic and socialist in outlook.

The Grenadian, a political and social philosophy major with a degree from a New York college, said his socialist ideals are not those being advocated by Marxists. "Marxism is a dead idea that someone flirted with years ago," he declared in a CANA interview. "I believe in the kind of American capitalism whereby one invests one's money for a profit. I do not believe in profiteering, but I believe that a man who invests his money should be able to have a nice return on his investment," he said.

Isaac said he was the driving force behind the move to form the GUP, but had already invited a prominent Grenadian educator to head the party. He declined to give his name. However, Isaac said the party already had a nucleus of Grenadians who believe that the existing political parties in the country do not meet the criteria for bringing sound leadership to the Grenadian people.

The disclosure of GUP came less than 72 hours after Grenada's interim administration announced that elections to return the island to parliamentary government after close to five years of left-wing revolution will take place anytime after May next year.

The last general election in Grenada in 1976 retained the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), or Eric Gairy, by a 9-6 margin. The remaining six seats went to a coalition of opposition groups led by lawyer Maurice Bishop, whose left-wing New Jewel Movement (NJM) three years later led a coup against Gairy's pro-Washington government. Bishop was himself executed in a bloody Army takeover last October 19.

U.S. SENDS MONEY FOR EDUCATION, HEALTH PROJECTS

FL141834 Bridgetown CANA in English 1356 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 14 (CANA) -- More than 80 Grenadians are expected to find temporary employment under four U.S.-financed projects in education and health as part of Washington's programme to aid the island's reconstruction following last October's bloody upheaval.

"Job creation is central to the policy of the interim government," head of the provisional administration, Nicholas Brathwaite, told U.S. Ambassador Tony Gillespie at a signing ceremony for the projects last evening.

The projects -- one in education and three in health -- will cost 124,000 dollars (U.S.). They bring to 650,000 dollars (U.S.) the amount of money Washington has injected into Grenada so far out of a three-million-dollar aid package, a U.S. official said.

The aim of the education project is to get facilities in and around 88 schools throughout Grenada in peak shape in time for the start of the next academic term in January. It involves clearing clogged drains, repairing water and toilet facilities, etc.

The projects in health include fixing and improving kitchen facilities, among other things, at the mental hospital here which was damaged by American bombs when U.S. forces invaded Grenada October 25 to put down a leftist coup. The other two will provide electrical generation equipment to help preserve vaccines at three hospitals and six health centres, in view of Grenada's unreliable power system, and set up a programme to upgrade the island-wide disposal of garbage.

RADIX CHARGES U.S. TROOPS VIOLATING RIGHTS

FL141247 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] In Trinidad, Grenada's former Attorney General Kendrick Radix charged U.S. military troops in Grenada are violating the rights of the people.

Mr Radix, a Marxist radical and a supporter of the late Prime Minister Bishop, spoke as a guest of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union, and demanded American aid to complete construction of the jet airport, largely built with Cuban aid, in Grenada.

He charged American soldiers were committing pyschological terror and violating the human rights and dignity of Grenadians, but he did not specify.

Havana Cites U.S. Soldiers

PA141235 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] A U.S. soldier who took part in the military invasion of Grenada described the mission of the U.S. occupation forces as beautiful, because, he said, the Marines broke everything. Another participant in the invasion said: The attack was fantastic because we could do anything we wanted, destroy or take things from the communists' houses. We broke everything, he added. We took whatever we wanted. Such is the law of war.

These statements were made to the correspondent of the Mexican weekly PROCESO by members of the 82d Airborne Division at the U.S. military base in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

A warrant officer who was part of the Grenada invasion forces said: We can go wherever we want. We do not care what the Latin American presidents think. We care what our U.S. President thinks. He added: We are willing to invade any country, even yours -- Mexico.

The U.S. soldiers praised the work of the CIA in directing the attack against certain houses.

BISHOP'S SISTER COMPLAINS OF SOLDIER'S HARASSMENT

FL142116 Bridgetown CANA in English 2046 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 14 (CANA) -- A sister of slain Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has complained of being harassed by a soldier handling immigration matters at Pearls Airport here Sunday when she returned from a memorial church service for her brother in Trinidad, informed sources said today.

Ann Bishop said the soldier, a member of the Caribbean Peacekeeping Force on duty here following last October's strife, questioned her about several visits she had made to Cuba and warned that she could be detained if she did not report her presence within 48 hours to an unnamed person whose telephone number was given her. Ms Bishop said she told the soldier she had visited Cuba several times for medical attention and vacation and went with her mother, who needed medical treatment, once. Ms Bishop said she declined to make the phone call as suggested and saw the questioning as "a sort of harassment." Ms Bishop and her mother flew to Trinidad for last Saturday's memorial service, which was organised by the influential Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OTWU) there.

Maurice Bishop was killed October 19 by soldiers during a military coup that triggered a joint U.S.-Caribbean invasion of the island to restore order.

JAMAICA

ELECTIONS SET FOR 15 DEC, SIX SEATS CONTESTED

FL150000 Bridgetown CANA in English 2321 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 14, (CANA) -- Voters in a mere six of Jamaica's 60 constituencies will have an opportunity tomorrow to vote in what Prime Minister Edward Seaga had planned to be snap general elections to provide his three-year-old government with a new mandate. But unlike 1980, when Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) won 51 of the seats and electioneering was bitter and violent, the past two weeks given for the campaign have been generally anti-climactic, and Jamaica appears to have been subsumed by an unnatural calm.

The reason: Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party retained power virtually by default when 54 of its candidates were returned unopposed on nomination day (November 29), due to a boycott by the main opposition, the People's National Party. And with the seven independents and representatives of three fringe parties seeking to reach Parliament expected to make a poor showing tomorrow, there is every likelihood that the JLP will end up with all the seats and Jamaica will have its first one-party lower house.

Seaga called the election two days afrer announcing new economic austerity measures, including a 43-percent devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, under a new loan arrangement the government is working out with the International Monetary Fund. The prime minister said he was faced with a crisis of confidence after the PNP called for his resignation as minister of finance for allegedly deceiving the country on its economic performance last September under a U.S. 650-million-dollar facility that was coming to the end of its three-year life. Seaga had said that Jamaica passed the tests, but the IMF insisted that it failed.

However, the PNP stayed out of the election because it was called on a three-year-old voters list, which it said disfranchised 150,000 voters who had reached 18 since 1980, and had contained the names of another 100,000 persons who had either died or emigrated since the last electoral was drawn up. But more fundamentally, the PNP said that the prime minister had broken a "solemn pledge" made by both parties in 1980 that no election would be called before the implementation of electoral reforms, specifically the introduction of photo-identification and thumb-printing of voters that has been part of a package being worked on.

The party said the new system would have been ready early next year, but Seaga said it would take six months to implement, and as much as he regretted that many young voters would not have an opportunity to cast a ballot, an election could not wait that long.

The PNP maintains that its stand will save democracy in Jamaica, while the JLP claims that the PNP boycotted the poll because it was disorganized, had no money with which to fight an election, and was afraid of defeat. "Manley was caught with his pants at his knees," JLP General Secretary Bruce Golding said in a television broadcast this week.

The PNP is staunch in its feeling of correctness and Manley today said that his party would also boycott municipal elections planned for next March if election reform and a new voters list are not ready by then. "We will not take part in any election whatsoever until there is a new list and the implementation of reforms that were agreed to, to eliminate electoral fraud, he told journalists.

Added Manley, whose east central Kingston constituency will be represented by the lacklustre Ryan Peralto, a city businessman: "I know of no Third World democracy that has survived political corruption...by our stand we will have saved democracy.

IMF TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS THIS MONTH

FL141625 Bridgetown CANA in English 1553 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 14 (CANA) -- Jamaica and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) should, by December 22, conclude negotiations for a new 15-month standby credit facility, expected at 180 million (U.S.) dollars, the government announced last night. A statement from Jamaica House (prime minister's office) said Central Bank Governor Horace Barber had been in Washington over the past fortnight negotiating the loan agreement which will run from January 1 next year to March 31, 1985.

There was no indication of the performance criteria being attached to the package, but the statements said Barber had been having regular consultations with Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Edward Seaga on matters requiring policy decisions.

Jamaica last September failed to meet economic performance criteria under an IMF extended fund facility for 650 million dollars (U.S.), which was to expire in March of next year. Performance tests also failed in March, but the fund granted the government a waiver allowing the programme to continue.

Jamaica said it had passed the September tests, and Seaga told Parliament late November that because both sides could not agree on the point it was decided to abandon the old facility, which still had 80 million dollars (U.S.) in credit remaining, and institute a 180-million-dollar standby credit.

The most immediate consequence of that agreement was the unification of the tiered currency exchange system that had [words indistinct] between the government and the fund. "The fund had only told Seaga that it was "prepared to discuss the standby facility if the government devalued the Jamaican dollar," the PNP said.

When the March performance tests failed Seaga was forced to increase economic austerity measures, including slashing the J3.2-billion-dollar fiscal budget by J149 million dollars, and to reduce imports by 159 million dollars (U.S.) (1 U.S. dollar; 3.15 dollars J).

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

NEVIS HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY APPROVES BUDGET

FL141301 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] The Nevis House of Assembly approved Monday night a $14 million budget for the island, part of the nation of St Kitts-Nevis. St Kitts Finance and Nevis Affairs Minister Simeon Daniel presented the budget, which includes $1 million for education and $650,000 for health expenses on the island of 5,000 people.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

POLICE PREPARING FOR PEACEKEEPING MISSION

FL141223 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] In Kingstown, Saint Vincent, Foreign Affairs Minister Hudson Tannis said yesterday that local police have begun training for their peacekeeping mission on Grenada, using U.S. military equipment and weapons donations.

Mr Tannis said military vehicles and weapons were flown to the island nation over the weekend aboard a U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules transport.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GRENADIAN POLITICIAN HOPES TO MEET CHAMBERS

FL141703 Bridgetown CANA in English 1353 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 14 (CANA) -- Grenadian businessman/politician Winston Whyte, who was detained for four-and-a-half years without charge by the island's recently deposed People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), has arrived in Trinidad and Tobago hoping to meet Prime Minister George Chambers to discuss issues relating to Grenada's future.

Whyte, who led the United People's Party, which unsuccessfully contested the 1976 general election in alliance with the Grenada National Party and the New Jewel Movement of Maurice Bishop, told CANA. "I would like to see Prime Minister Chambers as a Caribbean man and as a Grenadian. I hope (he) will see me."

Whyte, who was freed after American-led forces invaded the Spice Island October 25 to oust a leftist military junta said he wanted to convey to Chambers the opinions and issues of the "ordinary Grenadian" on recent developments in Grenada.

Grenadians have by and large welcomed the invasion which followed the October 19 Army execution of Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several others.

Prime Minister Chambers was among the Caribbean leaders who objected to the use of force to put down the coup.

COMMISSION TO STUDY OIL, SUGAR INDUSTRIES

FL142250 Bridgetown CANA in English 2225 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 14 (CANA) -- A national economic planning commission headed by Prime Minister George Chambers has begun discussing the future of Trinidad and Tobago's troubled oil industry and will be looking at the role and direction of the sugar industry when it meets again this weekend, the government said today. The commission's work is based on the recommendations of a committee led by former government economic advisor William Demas, who now heads the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

The Information Ministry said the commission yesterday received and discussed fully a subcommittee's report on the role and direction of the oil industry, mainstay of the Trinidad and Tobago economy. It said the commission also considered the status and cost implications of possible public sector investment programme projects for 1984-86.

The so-called Demas Committee has recommended cut backs in government subsidies, tightening up of tax collection systems, a wages freeze, and general prudence in the spending of petroleum revenues in the light of world price cuts and declining local oil production.

BRAZIL

ANDREAZZA DENIES BEING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PY141402 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Brasilia -- Interior Minister Mario Andreazza stated today that he is not a candidate for president of the Republic or for anything else, such as a position in the provisional government. Andreazza added that there is no possibility of an agreement with Vice President Aureliano Chaves before the PDS [Social Democratic Party] convention in September. He does not [words indistinct] even of being vice president, the minister stated.

Regarding the possible support of former President Geisel for candidate Paulo Maluf, Andreazza said he does not want to comment on this because each Brazilian has the right to support the candida that he thinks will rule better.

MEXICO

SILVA-HERZOG, SUAREZ MEET WITH KISSINGER ON C.A.

FL141426 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1010 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Jesus Silva-Herzog, secretary of Finance and Public Credit, met here today with Henry Kissinger, head of the U.S. Bipartisan Commission on Central America, to talk about the situation in that region. Francisco Suarez Davila, under secretary of finance, and Arthur Montana, spokesman from the U.S. Embassy, were also present.

Montana said that it is the U.S. intention to acquaint itself with the viewpoints expressed by diverse sectors of the countries visited.

Havana Reports Commission Visit

PA141625 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid today received the U.S. Bipartisan Commission headed by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. The U.S. mission also met with Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda and a group of legislators who briefed the group on the traditional viewpoints of Mexican foreign policy, particularly concerning respect for the self-determination of peoples, the principle of non-intervention, and the negative results stemming from the use of force in international relations.

Kissinger and his group will leave for Venezuela tomorrow. The mission's objective is to make recommendations to President Ronald Reagan on the best way to defend the U.S. interests in Central America.

PANAMA

GROUPS PROTEST U.S. 'INTERVENTION' IN C.A.

PA141652 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0006 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] Panama City, 12 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Representatives of 20 popular and leftist organizations of Panama, including 4 political parties, today protested in front of the Foreign Ministry building against the U.S. intervention in Central America.

A delegation delivered a communique to Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera, condemning U.S. policy in the area and actions that "jeopardize the Contadora plan, the only hope left today of finding a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis." The document pointed out that there is fear that the present U.S. Administration might do in Central America what it did in Grenada, and noted that the U.S. military presence in "nduras, the revamping of the Central American Defense Council (CONDECA), and the com, icity of some industrialists in the "Kissinger project" imply an eventual invasion of the area.

"The Panama Canal's neutrality cannot be guaranteed if the United States is allowed to use the military bases remaining in that territory to carry out acts of aggression in the area, or if the Panamanian Government sends 2,000 members of its National Defense Force to join CONDECA," the document added.

SURINAME

DUTCH PAPER INTERVIEWS FORMER BOUTERSE AIDE

PM141406 [Editorial Report] Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch on 7 December carries on page 3 a 3,000-word interview with Rudy Kross, a former adviser to Surinamese Army leader Bouterse.

Kross is now resident in the Netherlands after leaving Suriname and is most critical of developments there. He speaks with satisfaction of the departure of the Cubans from Suriname and outlines their involvement in the actions against opposition figures in December 1982 and their general interference in Surinamese Government affairs.

Kross is also critical of Army leader Bouterse, who ignores outside pressure for a return to democracy and instead sets up a new movement of national unity which rules out any political plurality. Kross describes Bouterse as the puppet of the Progressive Workers and Farm Laborers' Union, just as he was of the now disgraced Revolutionary People's party, but Bouterse, he says, is also concerned about retaining maximum power for himself and the Army, and cooperation with him is impossible.

Kross sees the Army as the greatest problem in future developments in Suriname. It must be disbanded, he says, for it has begun to use force to control developments and is also easily manipulated by extremist groups.

Kross, although not totally in favor of an outside intervention in Suriname, would not oppose one. He praises the Netherlands for its continued suspension of development aid.

Kross considers that the old Surinamese political parties are still alive and that developments of recent years have actually strengthened the faith of many people in the old political alternatives, although Suriname's political underdevelopment would still cause problems even after a return to democracy.

Kross sees a further period of instability and terror for a Suriname ruled by Bouterse, but all will depend, he says, on what influence the United States exerts.